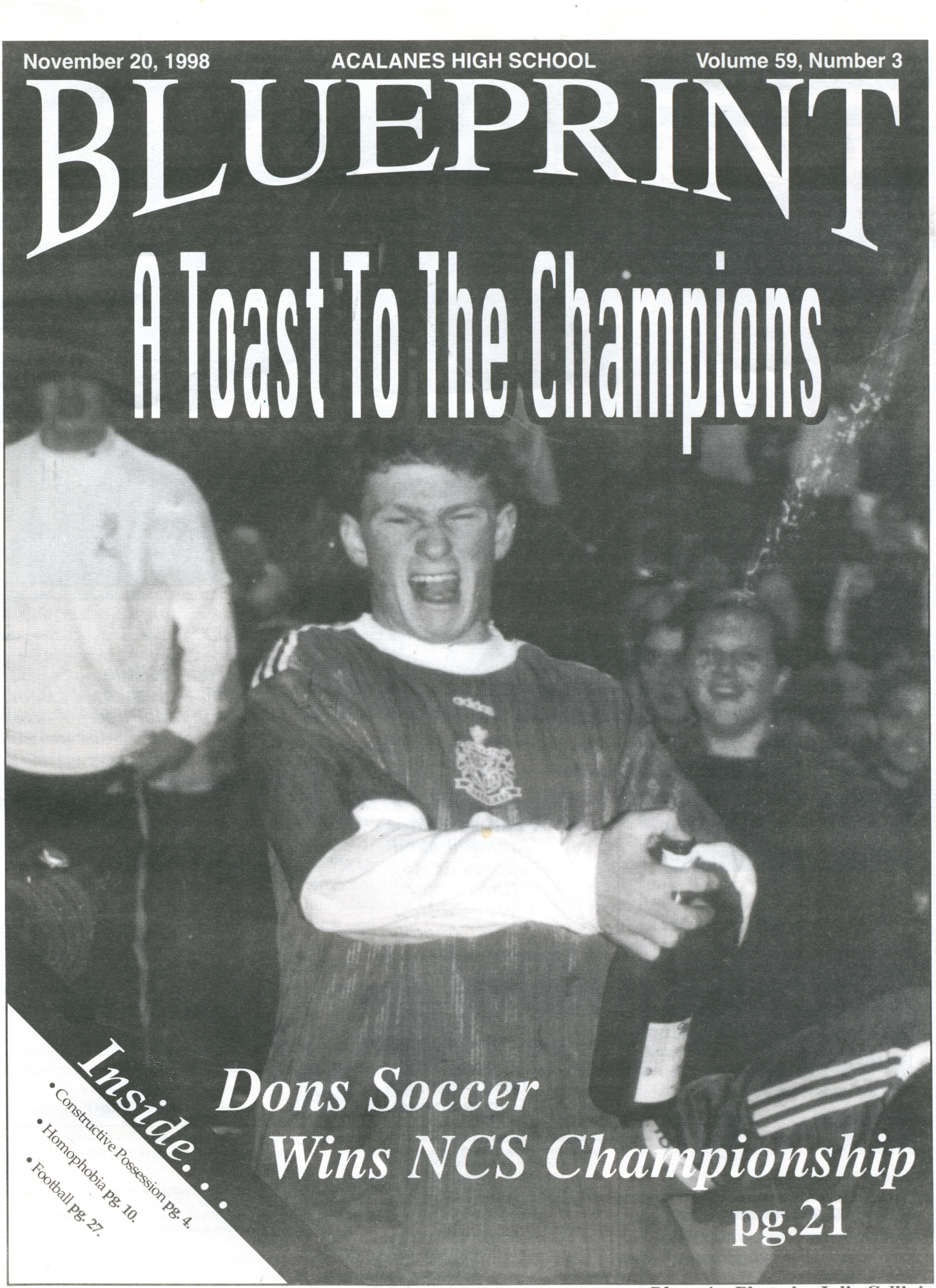
November 20, 1998 ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL Volume 59, Number 3

BLUEPRINT

A Toast To The Champions



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Dons Soccer Wins NCS Championship

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Blueprint **Photo by Julie Cellini**

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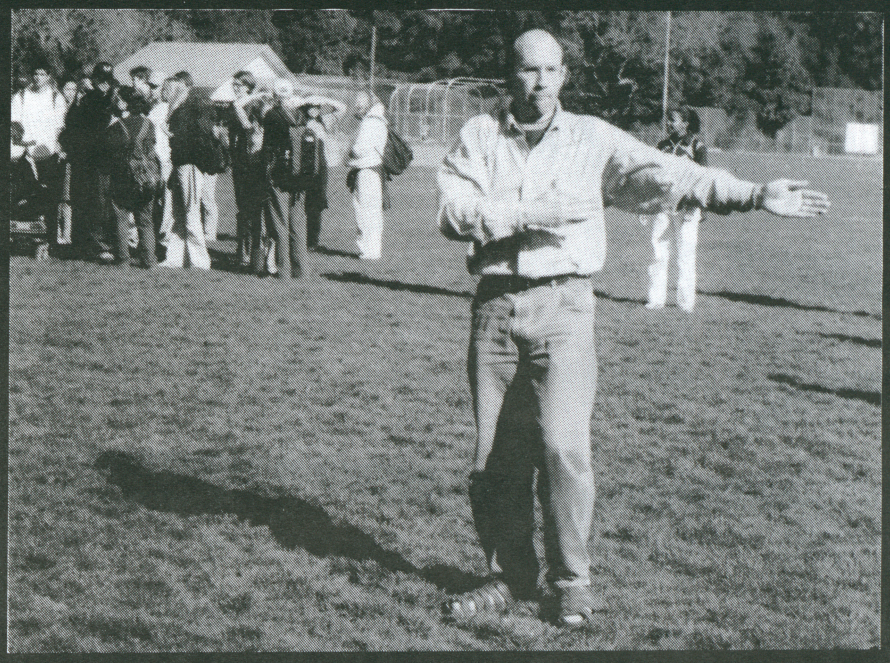
ON THE COVER: Senior Ryan Cassidy celebrates the soccer team's victory with a bottle of Martinellis. Cassidy scored a goal during the game

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Mr. McAlister directs wandering students to their designated positions during a fifth period fire drill Thursday, Nov. 5.

Blueprint '98-'99

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ACALANES BLUEPRINT
NEWS

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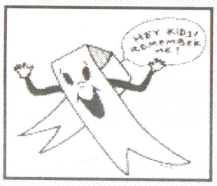


Red Ribbon Week Kept Low Key pg. 5

Students Measure Up With State Voters

By Ann Bordetsky
Staff Writer

Acalanes graduates may be better informed on state election issues than the average voter, if you ask government teacher Mike McAlister, but according to a *Blueprint* poll surveying student preference of candidates and propositions, many still feel uninformed on the issues.

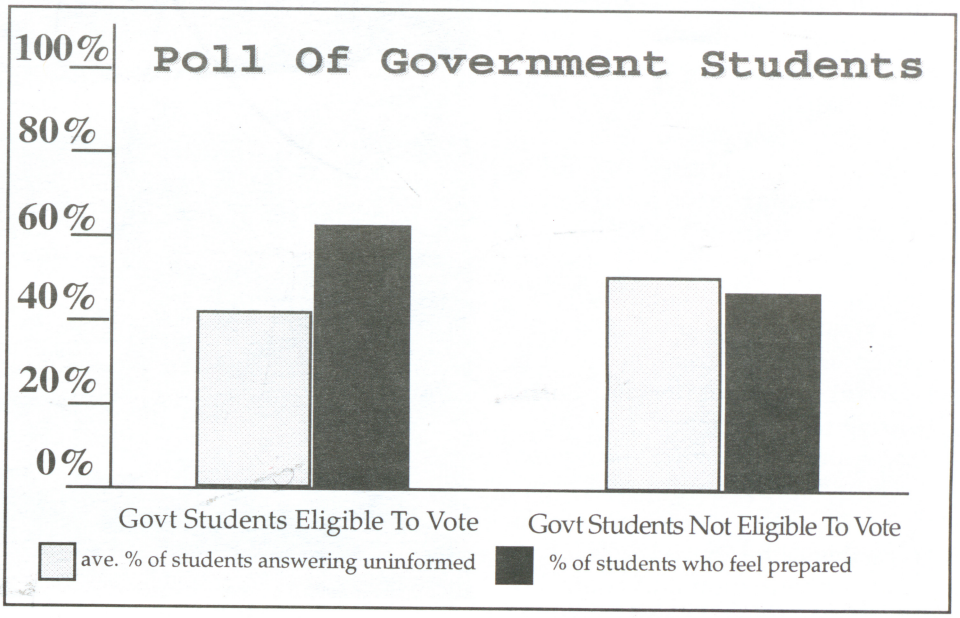
Although only 26% of government students surveyed are eligible to vote, and only 55% of those are registered voters, the majority of students surveyed answered that they are adequately prepared on state issues. Sixty percent of those eligible and 43% of those not eligible said they would feel prepared if they were to vote on the ballot. In comparison with voters across the state, AHS students "probably know a little more than the average voter," said McAlister.

Prior to Nov. 3, *Blueprint* surveyed seniors in government classes, asking their opinion on state candidacies and three propositions. The poll also asked whether students were informed on the issues.

Govt. students mirrored the opinions of state voters in most candidacies, according to the poll. In senatorial and gubernatorial races, students yielded almost identical percentages to that of state voters, with 53% for Democrat Barbara Boxer and 55% for Democrat Gray Davis.

Students differed from state voters by casting up to 12% of their votes for Green Party candidates. However, students voted 53% in favor of Prop. 3, while the state voted 54% against, which would strengthen the two party system.

Although 71% agreed that these state issues were taught in class, the number of students answering "don't know/uninformed" regarding various candidates and propositions ranged from 20% to 70%. The varying degree of student knowledge on certain state issues seems to reflect a trend similar to that of state voters.



In questions dealing with the senator, the governor, and Prop. 5 on tribal gaming, which received a substantial amount of press coverage, the number of students who felt uninformed ranged from 20% to 30%. In the less publicized categories, such as Insurance Commissioner, 50% to 75% of students answered "do not know/uninformed". Similarly, state election results showed that there is a drop-off in the number of voters on the less advertised issues.

Some students believe that many answered "uninformed" due to the general apathy of students toward state issues. "Not many people are interested [in state issues] because they don't see a direct impact on their lives," said senior Simone George. Govt. teacher Mary Carmichael disagreed, saying that students do care "when [the issues] are presented and they have enough time to look at them...but not in a survey."

McAlister offered another reason why many students aren't trying to become informed. "Low political efficacy. They feel they have very little power...or need to do much along the lines of voting," he said. According to the poll, only two percent of students felt well represented by their elected officials, while 20% felt completely not represented, which may be a source of why some students feel they have little power. While 47% felt adequately represented, 30% answered that they didn't know.

History teacher Ramsay Thomas and McAlister agree that it is the responsibility of government teachers to bring state issues into discussion as much as possible because, as McAlister said, "it's critical we awaken to the realities of Washington and Sacramento." Neither thinks current classes at Acalanes are sufficiently covering the topic.

Students agreed that the issues should be taught in class but also recognized that it is their individual responsibility to get involved and become conscientious voters. Senior Traci Hibbert said "if the teacher wants to teach [the issues] it's fine, but it's up to the student whether they want to take it in or not. It's more of the students responsibility because it's their business."

NEW DRUG POLICY

The Construction of Constructive Possession

Part 2 of a Series

By Lexi Matsui

Staff Writer

Despite rumors regarding the legality of constructive possession, it is not a crime to be the designated driver as a student or to be with someone who is in possession of illegal substances, according to Lafayette Police Officer Ken Whitlatch.

"Constructive possession, as is known, derives from a recent California state court law ruling and can be applied to students under both school disciplinary policies and by law enforcement," said Whitlatch.

Construction possession occurs when an accused person controls or has a right to control the contraband according to Whitlatch.

Possession may be implied when the contraband is found in a place which is immediately and exclusively accessible to the accused and is subject to his domination and control or to the joint domination and control of the person who is accused, said Whitlatch.

The rumor regarding constructive possession as a law has made the rounds from scared student designated drivers, to parents at Parent's Club meetings, a local high school newspaper, and has even reached the Acalanes faculty at a faculty meeting held in September.

The Campolindo handbook is one of the original sources of the rumor. It calls for serious consequences for being charged with constructive possession. The handbook says students could potentially receive anywhere from a three day suspension to expulsion.

If there is no open container or illegal material in a car, just a sober student in the presence of those under the influence a student would not be charged under the law, according to Whitlatch.

Campolindo's newspaper, *La Puma*, reported on Oct. 28 that "students may be charged with constructive possession if they are found associating with students using drugs or alcohol," but the Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Highway Patrol claim to have no knowledge of constructive possession as a law.

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

An ambulance waits outside of the Homecoming football game on Oct. 23 to take an intoxicated student to the hospital . The incident was one of many during the week involving drugs and alcohol at school functions.

Campolindo does not seem to be the only source that's confused about constructive possession.

Several Campolindo parents brought up the policy at an Acalanes Union High School District board meeting. The parents wanted to know if the suspension of students for designated driving is a district policy. Even the school board was unsure as to whether designated driving as a minor was illegal and against district policy.

At a faculty meeting in November, Principal Keith Schmidt allegedly told the faculty that this was in fact a law, and that it was to be enforced. However, Schmidt added that he said constructive possession is based on a court ruling, not a law at the faculty meeting.

"He said that it was a state law, and that it will cause problems," said Rich Klier, a math teacher.

"He definitely implied that it was a law," says science teacher Lori Tewksbury.

An Acalanes Parent's Club meeting also fueled the rumor. Parent's Club President Hilma Jones said that the organization has discussed constructive possession.

The Parents Club was under the impression that kids could be arrested for being designated drivers. Jones, however, said, "I have not seen anything written on it because it's been hard to get information on it."

DRUG ISSUES

Drugs Play Role in Student Life

By Lexi Matsui
Staff Writer

Drug use statistics from an Acalanes Drug and Alcohol Task Force survey of students show that more than half of students say drugs have an impact on their lives.

"It makes me really sad to see kids that were so cute when they were little doing drugs," said sophomore Heather Moore.

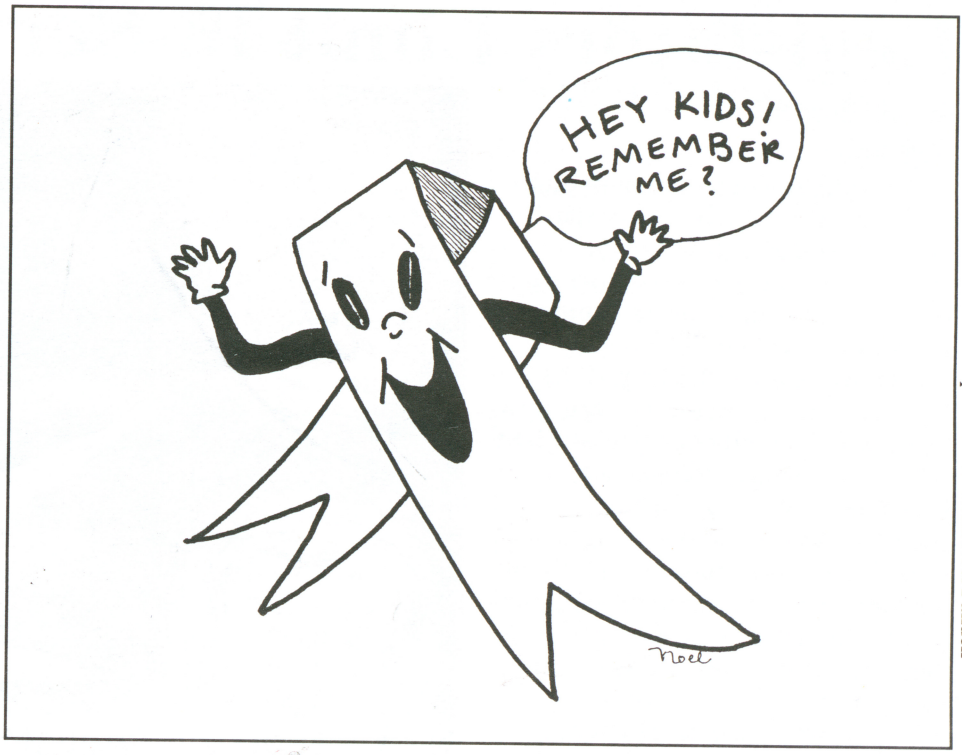
Sixty-seven percent of students said that drugs did in fact cause them problems. These ranged from passing out to hurt friendships and money problems.

But drugs affect more than external issues. Nurse Diana Nehls said that she has seen the effects of methamphetamines on campus, and these are very serious.

Student use of methamphetamines as well as other drugs were also surveyed, including tranquilizers, heroin, and narcotics.

Twenty-two percent of students surveyed said that they had tried drugs of this kind at least once throughout the 1997-1998 school year, but rarely more than once a month.

Junior Kimberly Okamoto feels that these drugs are mainly used by students who are experimenting. "I don't know if there are a lot of 'hard' drugs. I think it's mainly a lot of pot," she said.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fahden

Weak Red Ribbon Week

By Lindsay Wood
Staff Writer

In contrast to the red balloons blowing through the air Oct. 26, this year's Red Ribbon Week was grounded in comparison to prior years.

The week started with a demolished car, driven by a drunk driver, placed in front of the school as an example to all students of the consequences of driving drunk.

The object of Red Ribbon Week is to "raise the awareness of the problems with drug use and how it affects our minds and our bodies, " said Diana Nehls, the school nurse and organizer of this year's Red Ribbon Week.

Since Red Ribbon Week followed Homecoming this year, the week was not action-packed with assemblies . Instead it was kept low key. Students decided if they wanted to participate. Principal Keith Schmidt said, "We did not have an overly ambitious program for Red Ribbon Week. While we wanted to recognize the consequences of substance use and abuse, we feel that that should be on going for the rest of the year."

Even though Red Ribbon Week was not given as much attention as it has gotten in the past, Nehls felt that, "every student was aware that it was Red Ribbon Week."

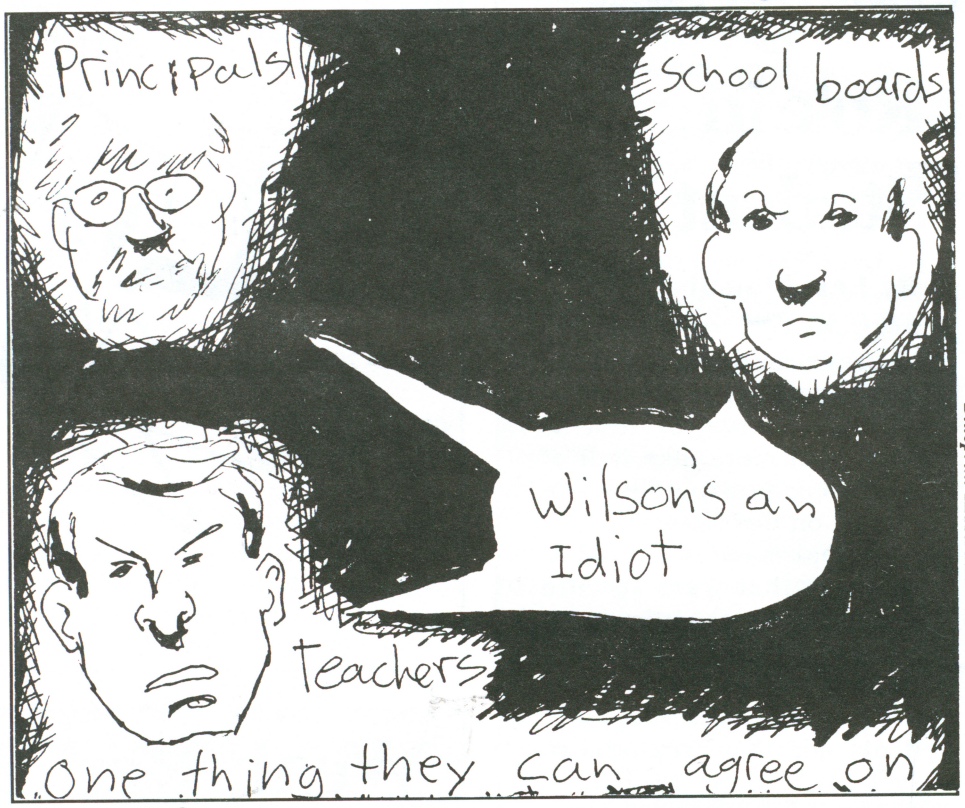
Students expressed a different opinion. Many thought that not enough was done to promote Red Ribbon Week, and that more should have been done to promote it, especially since seven students were suspended over Homecoming weekend. Junior Amanda Blythe said that, "it did not get enough attention. The Youth Educators should have been more involved. Their job is to promote being drug and alcohol free, and that is what Red Ribbon Week is all about."

Freshman Kate Webster expressed the same feelings when she said, "some people didn't even know that it was Red Ribbon Week."

UPSET TEACHERS

Legislators Limit In-Service Days

By Ann Bordetsky
Staff Writer



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

While in-service days may on the surface affect only the vacation plans of students, teachers are bearing the real burden due to recent legislation, which limits their pay and curricular development.

According to Principal Keith Schmidt, in-service days are now being rescheduled out of the student school year in accordance with Governor Wilson's legislation, which seeks to increase the number of school days for students. Acalanes teachers are now offered the opportunity to come to in-service days before and after the student school year.

However, due to the change, teacher pay for the in-service days is coming out of a separate state fund, which caps the amount that teachers may be paid. According to English teacher Erik Seebass and District Business Manager Larry Larson, the state allocated $270 per teacher for two in-service days this August, unlike $220 for in-service days in previous months.

During the 1998 June in-service days, teachers were paid $200 out of the $220 that the state allocated for each day. According to District Superintendent James Perino, the extra $20 goes "to pay for costs associated with the in-service", such as counselors and librarians.

According to Seebass, teachers will receive $250 out of the allocated $270 for August in-service days, but this "was just a verbal agreement."

Many teachers, however, feel that the pay is unfair because teachers are not receiving their per diem pay due to Wilson's new legislation. Seebass said, "if [the district] wants us to work extra days...then it should pay us our regular rate for those extra days."

Seebass, who boycotted the in-service days along with history teacher Larry Freeman, said the amount offered is "way less for most teachers than they normally get paid in a day". Acalanes' new teachers may be jumping for joy, but the veteran faculty has something to fear in being forced to accept lower salaries.

Schmidt, however, believes there is no real danger since the work days are voluntary and not included as part of the yearly salary.

Perino believes the bigger issue is that Wilson's legislation, while providing a longer school year for students, results in a loss of valuable destress time for both students and teachers. "I applaud [Wilson] for moving toward more school days for students...but limiting the service days to...before and after the school year...(is) a very narrow and unnecessary step", said Perino. "I do not agree with the thesis he and the legislature have enacted", he added.

Perino believes that the in-service days during the year are extremely useful to teachers because they provide time to make plans and reevaluate several months of work. Too few work days within the student school year will "put pressure and stress on teachers as well as students", said Perino.

Seebass agreed with Perino saying in-service days " are really important...We need time to figure out what we're going to do during the year and how we're going to implement new programs."

Currently, there is a 185 day school year of which students attend 178 days; the rest are teacher in-service days. Due to Wilson's changes, the 1998-1999 school year includes two more days for students, while four in-service days are rescheduled out of the year.

However, what the district wants is a 190-195 day school year, with more days for teachers not students. "We need a longer school year but we should ...[have] more time with teachers, on the payroll...10-12 days of in-service", said Perino.

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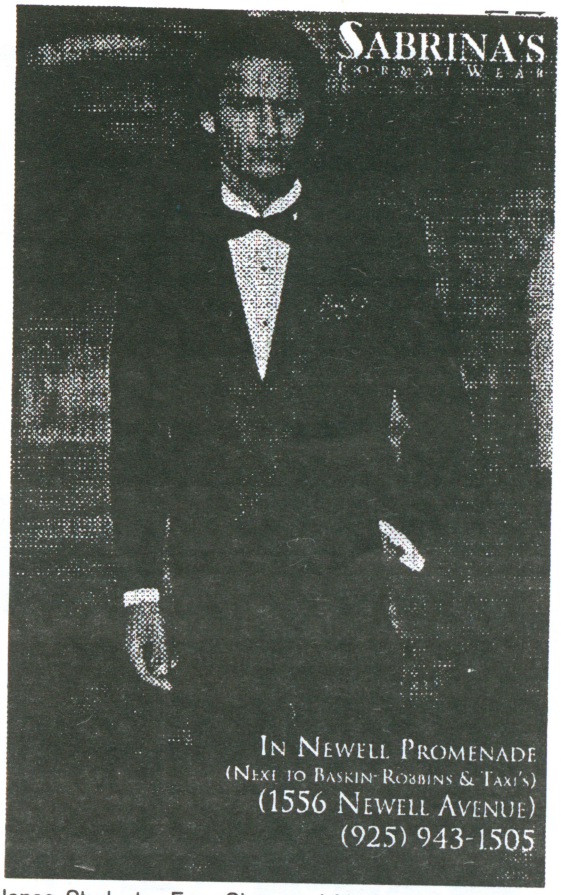

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COACH FINGERPRINTING

Live Scan to Speed Up Background Check

By Sam Cunningham
Staff Writer

The Acalanes High School District has recently purchased a machine that will greatly speed up the background check process required for all district and school employees.

The LS-21 Live Scan, which cost $10,000, will shorten the process from six weeks to a mere 72 hours. District staff will operate the machine and will retrieve fingerprint records from Sacramento via a dedicated phone line.

The Human Resources section of the District Office staff will begin training on Dec. 9, and the Live Scan should be ready for use after Christmas break.

Formerly, all fingerprints were sent to Sacramento via paper mail and were not returned for six to eight weeks, depending on the urgency of the application.

This practice forced the school to begin searching for applicants weeks, if not months, before the season even began, which for fall sports would require the candidate for coach to be found over the summer. If the applicant's file were to arouse suspicion, the school would need to locate a coach who is already cleared.

Having lost several applicants due to the long waiting period, the district decided to purchase the machine for use by the four high schools. The cost will be defrayed by local elementary districts including the Walnut Creek, Orinda, and Moraga school districts.

The background check was made mandatory for all employees coming into repeated contact with students by a law enacted after the 1995 murder of a Stockton girl by an uncleared janitor. The aim of the law is to keep potentially dangerous individuals out of contact with students. All teachers and employees have undergone such a check.

Any instances in which the applicant's police record was modified or changed will appear on this fingerprint check. Normal hiring procedures and updates of past checks are expected to be greatly augmented by the purchase of the Live Scan machine.

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

The aim of the law is to keep potentially dangerous individuals out of contact with students.

In addition to sports, the school's Mastery For Writing program, which involves individual tutors helping students with their essay writing, will be greatly bolstered. Doug Senz, the program's head, felt that the old fingerprinting method "prolonged the process" of selecting new tutors. The delays with the fingerprinting led to having to shorten the amount of time spent with each class, a problem expected to be solved by the purchase of the Live Scan fingerprinter.

The idea for the purchase of the machine was first brought up after Mount Diablo School District purchased a similar machine and began contracting it's use to other schools. The decision to buy the Live Scan was also aided by the fact that Sacramento will stop accepting paper fingerprint checks in 2002, when the electronic method is expected to become the standard.

STUDENT CRIME

Student Crime Percentages Misleading

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

Acalanes student attendance and behavior for the year '97-'98 follows a tradition of excellence even though statistics seem to show an increase in some types of offenses and student misbehavior.

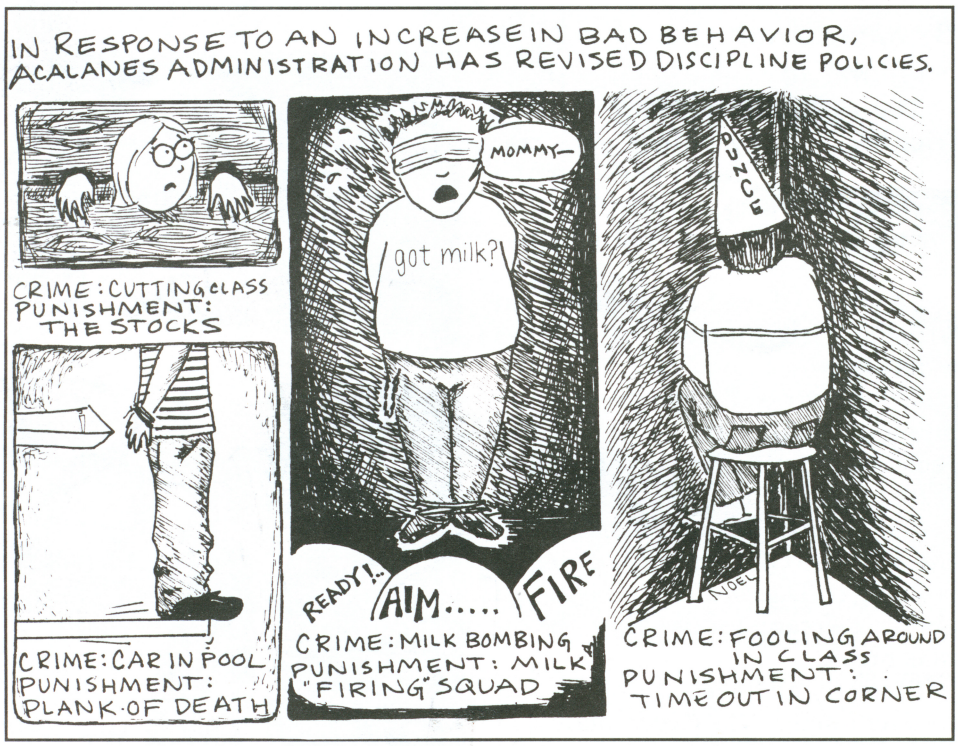
According to a behavior/attendance assessment sheet, the number of students involved in fighting has increased 133%, the number of tobacco violations have increased 164%, and the number of students caught with weapons has increased 400% since the 96-97 school year.

These figures can, however, be deceiving. For example, the 400% increase in weapons violations is from 0 incidents to 4. Similarly, the number of students caught fighting increased from 9 to about 20, and the number of tobacco violations increased from 14 to 37. Compared with the total enrollment at Acalanes, 0.3% of last year's 1286 students were caught carrying weapons, 1.5% were involved in fights, and 2.8% were caught with tobacco.

Principal Keith Schmidt points out that the statistics are misleading and that there is not a significant increase in behavior and attendance problems at Acalanes. These figures "are not even pimples on an elephant's back," said Schmidt. The apparent increase in numbers may also be that "a campus supervisor only came in after these statistics got started. Maybe we are getting a little more effective in finding out and thus have a little better enforcement."

Seniors Amy Judy and Terrence Wong agreed that they haven't really noticed a significant increase in poor behavior at Acalanes. "I think (behavior) is the same," says Judy. "[The administration] is just reacting more severely now. I also don't think poor behavior causes problems for the students--more like for the administration." Wong also said, "I think it's generally pretty good here compared to other places. There aren't usually a lot of fights or anything."

In terms of numbers, there is an increase in poor behavior but in reality the percentage of kids who misbehave at Acalanes is minimal. The fact that we do have statistics on behavior and attendance at Acalanes gives the administration credit as well, since many high schools outside our district do not even have such an assessment sheet. As Associate Principal Jerry Bucci says on the topic of behavior at Acalanes, "A vast, vast majority of the students are very well-behaved and don't cause any problems. Beyond that, I feel that our disciplinary methods do tend to be effective."



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadhen

CAMPUS STREAKER

Naked Man Caught Traveling

A man was arrested after streaking through the large gym during a girls basketball open gym and charged with indecent exposure.

This incident marks the fourth time since August a nude or nearly nude man has run past or through a Lady Dons sporting event. This man, sporting only black high tops according to senior Rachel Rosemeyer, ran through the gym, stopping to swing from a basketball hoop. According to a witness, Lafayette police officer Ken Whitlatch apprehended the suspect while the suspect was attempting to flee the scene in a car near the bus stop on Stanley Boulevard. The witness placed the suspect under citizen's arrest later that evening.

A witness to the two most recent incidents said she is "almost 100% positive" that the two streakers were different people. She was the only witness to the third incident, when, while going to her locker on a Sunday night, she was approached by a man wearing nothing but an unzipped gray sweatshirt. This incident sparked a schoolwide bulletin and parent phonetree activation warning students not to go to their lockers alone at night.

-Vanessa Totten

GRAPHIC ARTS

Where Art Thou, Graphic Arts?

By Brianne Kennedy
Staff Writer

Relics of what was once part of a program recognized as a "model" by the State of California, over $100,000 worth of printing equipment sits unused in the former Graphic Arts room at Acalanes.

Although presently unused, the equipment was put to work last year under the direction of Graphic Arts teacher Steve Gale, whose classes were, according to students, both extremely popular and productive.

"We had enough sign ups for over seven periods of Graphic Arts," said Wood Shop teacher Roger McMasters in reference to the current school year. "168 kids signed up."

Replacing Graphic Arts this year is a new program entitled "Graphic Design", which foregoes the printing process that was part of the Graphic Arts class for so long, and utilizes only computers and computer printers. It is offered for three periods. "They're two totally different curriculums," said McMasters.

Principal Keith Schmidt says that Acalanes made the change from traditional Graphic Arts to the computer-based Graphic Design because, "This [the printing part of Graphic Arts] is an area where we have a decreasing demand [in the business world], not an increasing one."

The shut down of the Graphic Arts department, at least for the time being, has raised questions about how those interested in Acalanes being a place merely for college preparation view "hands-on" electives.

"I think that the people at Acalanes have always said that wood shop, auto shop, and Graphic Arts are for the kids who are 'supposedly not going to college,' " said McMasters.

An anonymous Advanced Wood Shop student with a 4.0 grade point average, who is said by her teacher to be able to go to "probably any college that she wants" feels that although taking wood shop may not be preparing her for college, it is definitely preparing her for "after college and in the future."

When asked what keeps a student with such high potential interested in the industrial arts for so long she responded, "I just like working with my hands and seeing what I can make...It's really gratifying," she said.

Schmidt said that he certainly feels that classes like graphic arts, wood shop, and auto shop can be part of a solid college-preparatory program. "We don't have enough things based on a project," he said. He feels that classes such as these are places where knowledge can be actually applied.

To members of the Acalanes faculty, the future of the Acalanes Graphic Arts program remains uncertain. "We have not been told what they're going to do with it," said McMasters. "We are looking into see if we can find a Graphic Arts teacher to teach three of four of five periods a day...including the printing part."

"I'd like to see them have a Graphic Arts class and a Graphic Design class," said auto shop teacher Grant Cusick.

McMasters said that he thinks that parent input could alter the Graphic Arts predicament. "The parents have a great influence at the district office," he said.

When asked about the fate of the valuable printing equipment that is no longer being used, Schmidt said, "We are in no hurry to get rid of it."

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Expensive equipment sits idle in the back of the Graphic Arts room because there is no one available to teach a course that would utilize the equipment.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT
FEATURE

INSIDE . . . . . .

Contact Care Reaches Out to Teens
Pg. 11

HOMOPHOBIA

Acalanes Has No Room for Homophobia

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
News Editor

"That hat is gay." "You're such a fag." "She's such a dyke." Although comments like these, often heard throughout the halls of Acalanes, may seem innocent, they are a part of the homophobia that exists at Acalanes, which sometimes unravels into vicious hate crimes.

Some students and teachers are taking a stand against homophobia in hopes that students will see how harmful a prejudice-filled environment can be.

A large portion of the homophobia that exists at Acalanes is carried out verbally, commonly in words such as "fag" and "dyke". Erik Seebass, an English teacher, said many Project 10 students say verbal abuse is common at school, and that the phrases some students consider part of their everyday vocabulary are hurtful and demeaning. Project 10 is Acalanes' gay/lesbian/bisexual tolerance group.

Not only do some students suffer from the insulting words of their peers, but some are even physically harassed right on the Acalanes campus. Seebass said he has heard accounts from students saying they were constantly pushed or punched because of perceptions about their sexuality.

Project 10 members see homophobia as a large problem at school. "Homophobia is like a demon that heats the insides of people, and you can't stop it. It's really bad because you shouldn't be judged on just how you want to plan your lifestyle. You shouldn't be made fun of because you're different. Different is good and it should be celebrated," said a Project 10 member.

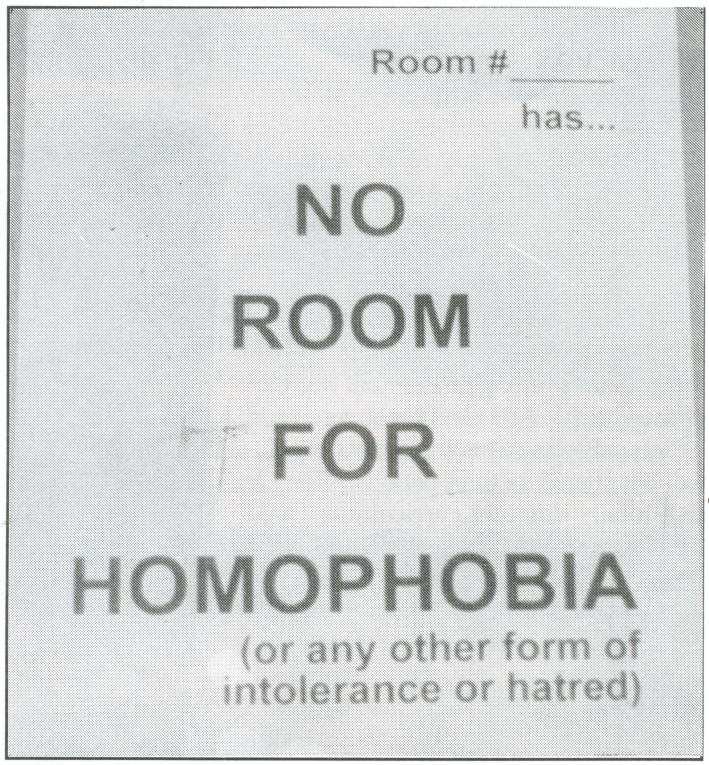
Seebass, the Project 10 advisor, sees a strong need for action in dealing with homophobia that exists at Acalanes, especially after two Acalanes students were involved in the beating of some students outside a Walnut Creek club last year because the attacked students were believed to be gay.

The approach to ending violence among students due to sexual preference consists of the 1882 Committee and fliers from Project 10.

The 1882 Committee, named for the state bill that provides funding for staff development for in-services, is a group of Acalanes faculty, one representative from each department. The group is in charge of organizing in-service days and other staff development activities. Seebass brought up the idea of an in-service day to instruct teachers about homophobia and how to deal with it at school. Seebass said the committee first started considering the plan at the beginning of the 1997-98 school year, but he said the in-service day continues to be postponed. "It's still in limbo, but we're hoping that it's going to happen," said Seebass.

In addition to teacher support, some students are taking a role in the fight against hate crimes and prejudice. Project 10 members made fliers for teachers, saying, "Room #__ has NO ROOM FOR HOMOPHOBIA (or any other form of intolerance or hatred)." Club members are working on getting teachers, one by one, to hang up the signs in hopes that the student body will recognize what a problem homophobia is. Currently there are at least fourteen posters hanging on teachers' doors.

Senior Project 10 member Nathan Burger said, "We need to open people's eyes. A lot of people have been taught (homophobic) values, and it's really a matter of teaching them different values, teaching them to be open-minded."



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Project 10, Acalanes' tolerance group, posted this sign on the doors of rooms, denouncing homophobia and intolerance.

CONTACT CARE

Contact Care Offers Sound Advice

By Jeni Wolowic
Staff Writer

Hope fills the air as volunteers of Contra Costa's Contact Care answer phones and lend a kind ear to callers seeking help.

They sit in a small room crowded with papers and pamphlets on every situation that they may face. They sit chatting and reading books until the phone rings. When the phone rings all action stops and somebody picks up the phone. "Hello, Contact Care this is Joanne speaking." Those not taking calls leave the room so that she can have her full attention on the caller. She welcomes the caller and makes them feel comfortable so that they will tell her everything about what's going on. Then, without giving advice, she helps the caller find options and then choose one. When the caller feels reassured they part ways.

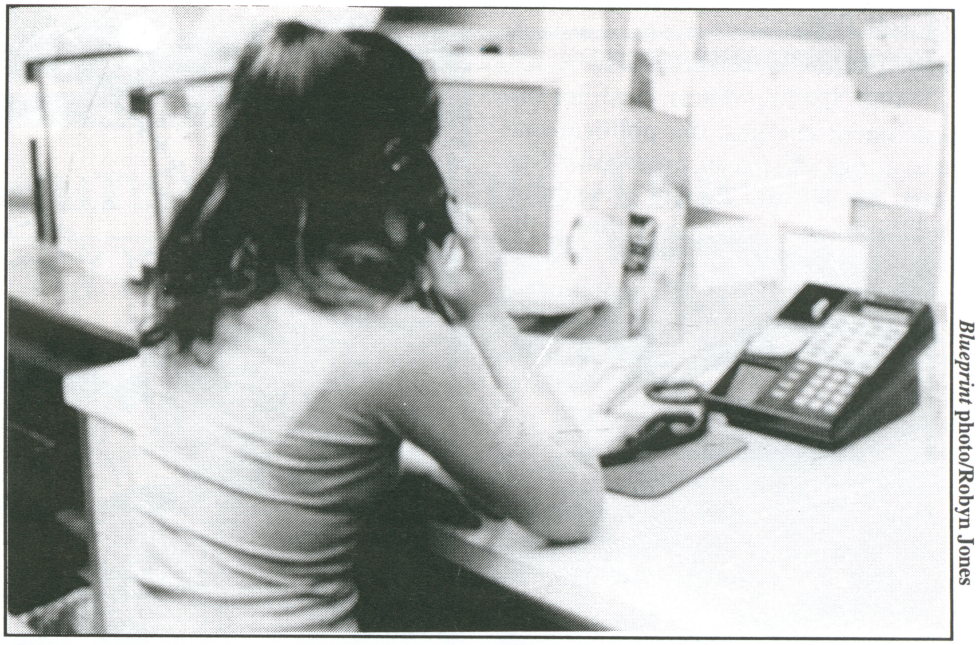
For 24 years Contact Care has offered their safe and non-judgmental services 24 hours a day to as many as 13,000 callers a year dealing with anything from stress to suicidal situations on confidential, toll-free telephone lines.

The volunteers at Contact go through a ten-week training session with discussions on basic counseling skills, and dealing with current social issues, and ends with the trainees taking actual calls for Contact Care.

After graduating from the training program, trainees are expected to work as volunteers for Contact Care for one year and volunteer eight to 16 hours a month for adults and four to eight for teenagers. Contact Care usually only accepts sophomore and junior teenage volunteers since the volunteers are expected to volunteer for a year and to write a paper on their own growth before they leave the organization.

People become volunteers for many different reasons including improvement of their communication skills, fulfillment from helping others, mere curiosity.

One teenage volunteer, who goes by the name Andrea said, "It was a great learning experience, but harder than I expected."



Blueprint photo/Robyn Jones

An anonymous teenage volunteer tries to calm a person in need of help over the phone on the Contact Care help line at an undisclosed location.

Procedures that trainees must learn include making the caller feel comfortable enough to talk about their situation, and then helping them to select and prioritize their option and decide what to do.

It is very important to Contact Care that full confidentiality is achieved, so receptionists only give out their first names to the callers and only ask for their callers first names. The calls are private between the caller and the volunteer and no stories leave their office. Without this confidentiality Contact Care would not be able to be as effective and help people as many people as they do.

In addition to these procedures, Contact Care does not give advice to its callers, it only help their callers to find their own solution to their particular situation. Contact Care gives callers "someone to hear what is on their heart" said Joanne, the director of the organization.

In addition to its adult help lines, Contact Care answers other help lines including the Teen Line, Kid Phone, Alliance for the Mentally Ill, The Compassionate Friends, and Awakening.

Volunteers taking calls for these help lines will listen to the caller's problem and attempt to connect them with more knowledgeable volunteers, or refer them to places around the county which are better suited to help their needs.

The Teen to Teen line offers teens to talk with other teens between the hours of four p.m. to 10 p.m., Sun. through Fri. Andrea said that they don't get many calls on this help line mainly because very few teenagers in the community know about it.

The Kid Phone Warm line offers elementary school kids someone to call if they are home alone and want someone to talk to when they are scared.

The adult help line offers callers of all ages to talk with a caring and understanding volunteers who will listen to anything they have to say.

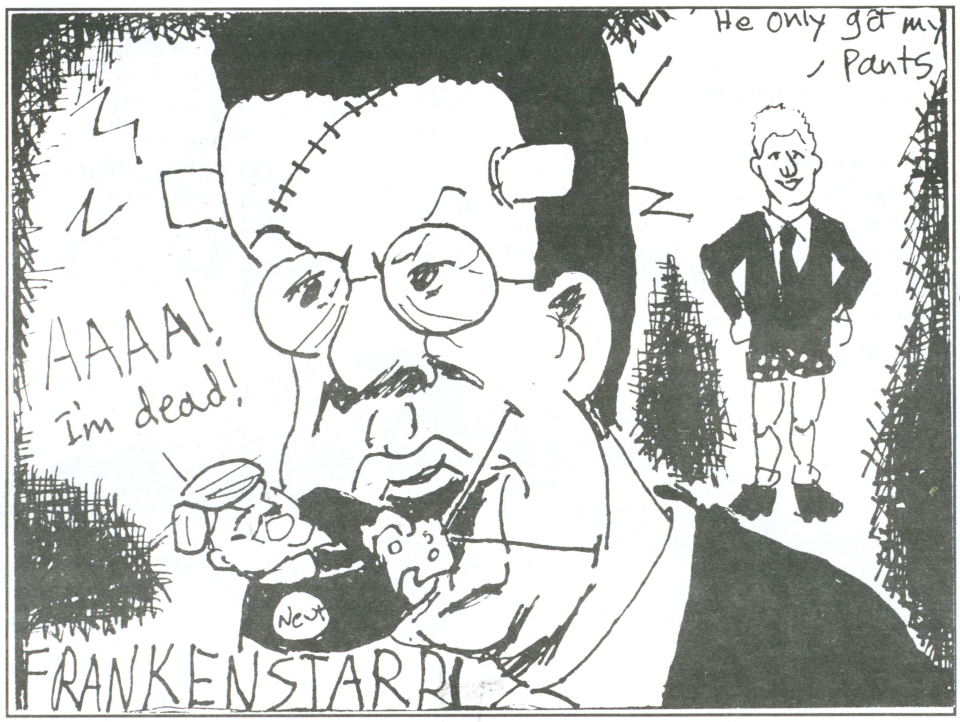
Susan Brady, the Director of Volunteers at Contact Care, said she thinks that "there are an awful lot of people in the community who need to reach out to and we are there to reach out to."

To Reach Contact Care:
Dial 284-CARE or 945-TEEN
Sun.-Fri. 4-10 p.m.
or Dial the Kid Phone at 284-2274
Daily 7-10 p.m.

IMPEACHMENT

Clinton: The Pits Of Impeachment

By Jeff Price
Staff Writer



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

With the Republican push for impeachment charges, the political maneuverings of special prosecutor Ken Starr, the Monica Lewinsky scandal, and President Clinton's deception of the American public, many people have come to view the impeachment process against the president as a political and moral issue. This view, however, is incorrect. It is primarily a legal one. Despite the outcry of many who feel that the President's actions were morally wrong and politically reckless, the legal facts in the case do not support impeachment, according to CL Morris, a retired veteran Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney.

Morris, a much-respected and honored prosecutor who had worked for 30 years in the District Attorney's office and served on the Education Committee of the California State Bar before retiring this year, stated that none of the charges that were cited as impeachable in the Starr Report would hold water in a court of law or in a trial before the United States Senate.

Although the Starr report cited several separate criminal offenses allegedly committed by Clinton, Morris stated that none of the charges, which included perjury and obstruction of justice, were impeachable, mainly because they did not rise to the implicit definition of impeachable offenses contained in the Constitution.

Despite the seriousness of the acts allegedly committed, the main legal theory that protects the president is the theory of private actions. The Constitution's provisions for high crimes and misdemeanors were meant to punish wrongdoing by the president while he was wielding the power of the presidency, not while committing private acts, according to Joe Woods, an attorney who helped to draft the articles of impeachment for President Nixon. Instead, Woods noted that impeachment was a remedy to counteract public acts such as abuse of office and misuse of the powers of the presidency. Morris agreed, and stated that most of the charges presented in the Starr report were essentially private matters, and not issues that affected or compromised the power of the president.

Morris reviewed several key charges for *Blueprint*, including counts of obstruction of justice, perjury, and abuse of office, and offered his comments on each. The first charge reviewed accuses the President of lying while responding to a set of written questions about his sexual background as a preparation for the Paula Jones sexual-harassment civil case. Morris was very skeptical of the charge, stating that it was all but impossible to prosecute, mainly because "There is no corroborating evidence...it is Mr. Starr standing alone" on the charges.

While perjury is a very common crime to allege, it is generally very difficult to prove. Perjury is defined legally as a willful lie under oath. While, in theory, just proof of a misstatement would be enough to prove some form of perjury, courts generally require more evidence to prove the intent to lie. According to Morris, the main proof of perjury is "corroborating evidence" that the prosecution can provide to show intent.

Morris was very distressed at the charges of perjury outlined by Starr. He noted that there was no proven intention on the part of the President to lie, and he felt that the charges in Starr's report sprang not from a criminal act, but from a discrepancy in testimony between the president and Monica Lewinsky. He stated, though, that "Mere discrepancies don't make perjury." In fact, Morris pointed out that discrepancies in testimony are to be expected by trial courts, because "people see and remember things differently."

The third facet of the perjury charge that would make it difficult to prosecute, according to Morris, was a lack of relevance. When Jones's sexual harassment complaint was dismissed by a federal court judge, the answers given by the President were not cited by the judge as the reason for the case's dismissal. Since the answers were not relevant to the dismissal of the case, they

IMPEACHMENT

failed to be as relevant as the basis of a perjury charge. It is difficult to prosecute cases of perjury where no relevant facts have been lied about, according to Morris. While not destroying the case outright, the lack of relevance still has a dampening effect on the charge itself.

Morris next examined a charge of obstruction of justice and witness tampering, stemming from alleged attempts by the President to influence the testimony of his secretary Betty Currie, by asking her pointed and leading questions about her recollection of the events surrounding Lewinsky's visits to the Oval office. However, Morris considered the charge "weak," and probably unfit for prosecution

Obstruction of justice is an intentional effort by a person to lie or subvert the system to block or stall a legal proceeding, and the actions of the President did not rise to a criminal level, according to Morris. Obstruction of justice and witness tampering occur only when threats are made against witnesses or testimony is bought, and no such actions occurred, he pointed out. Without proof of that direct action, he stated, the charge holds no merit.

The fourth charge examined was abuse of office, a noncriminal, but still impeachable, charge. This charge arose out of the President's refusal to testify for the grand jury that was convened to investigate him for approximately seven months. However, says Morris, the charge is unfit to be used for impeachment. A charge of abuse of office, he notes, is a misconduct which "touches and concerns the presidency," which this does not do.

While a refusal to testify to a grand jury may be unethical, the President has not been charged with a crime and therefore is not subject to abuse-of-office charges, Morris stated. In fact, he noted that the abuse of office charges against the president were similar to the charges brought against Andrew Johnson after the Civil War, which was, "anything anybody could take exception to."

In fact, Morris felt that the report was consistent with a prosecution much like the Johnson case, where members of Congress attempted to impeach the President based on behavior that they took offense to.

After looking at the charges against Clinton, Morris stated that he felt they were essentially un-prosecutable, and even were an overstepping of the authority of Kenneth Starr, the Independent Counsel responsible for investigating the President's misconduct. "If I was to overreach [my authority] in this way... they'd disbar me," he stated.

> *"Mr. Clinton may be a cad, but Mr. Starr is dangerous."*
>
> ***Former Contra Costa District Attorney CL Morris***

When asked if he thought the report was politically motivated, he emphatically agreed. He noted that, for the $40 million spent on gathering the report, the crimes that the report alleged were rather insubstantial. "$40 million dollars would be equal to about 10 years of all the crimes prosecuted in Contra Costa County... crimes that hurt people." Echoing a common theme among many examining the Starr report, he stated that while he was unhappy with the President's actions, he was more unhappy with the handling of the case by the Starr team and the unprofessional behavior of Starr himself. "I feel the real crime has been committed by Ken Starr," he said.

In addition, Morris was highly disappointed with the potential effects of the report. He noted that, within the legal community, a backlash against prosecution was already being felt. County District Attorneys were beginning to be judged more harshly, with juries feeling more sympathy for defendants and "victims" of an overbearing justice system. "People are beginning to see the unfairness of it, and it has rubbed off on all the prosecutorial powers of the state. This has been a tragic incident in our history. Mr. Clinton may be a cad, but Mr. Starr is dangerous."

SIDEBAR

Although impeachment has become the center of the Washington, DC political universe during the Clinton scandal, it is by no means a common or a simple process. It, in fact, was designed by the framers of the Constitution to be a difficult and serious procedure. An impeachment begins with a hearing by the House Judiciary Committee, which recommends a course of action to be taken on further impeachment proceedings. This phase of the impeachment proceeding is where the current case against President Clinton rests, and may or may not continue to the next level.

If the House Judiciary Committee suggests that the proceedings should go forward, the full House of Representatives drafts and votes on a list of charges. If the charges are agreed upon by the House, the official is considered impeached and the second phase of the impeachment process begins.

After the impeachment, the full Senate, chaired by the Chief Justice of the United States, is called into session to act as a jury for the impeached official. Prosecutors and defense lawyers present evidence before the jury, with the Chief Justice serving much as a judge in a real courtroom. If two-thirds of the Senate votes for impeachment, the official is removed from office.

Impeachment, unsurprisingly, has only been visited upon three sitting presidents- Andrew Johnson, for his refusal to obey the laws of a radically-oriented congress; Richard Nixon, for his role in the Watergate scandal; and Bill Clinton, for his activities surrounding the Monica Lewinsky sex controversy.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
OPINION

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Chuck Chats About Tauscher Riding the Elephant
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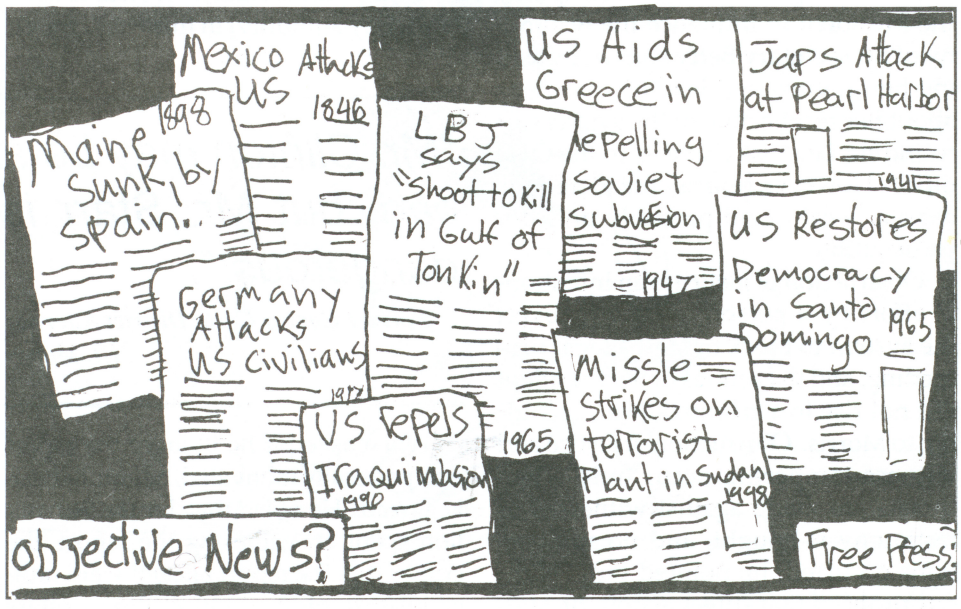
EAST ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

American News: More Than Meets The Eye

By Nathalie de Leon
Staff Writer


Mexico Attacks US 1846
US Aids Greece in repelling soviet subversion 1947
Japs Attack at Pearl Harbor 1941
Maine sunk by spain.. 1898
LBJ says "Shoot to Kill in Gulf of Tonkin"
US Restores Democracy in Santo Domingo 1965
Germany Attacks US Civilians 1917
US repels Iraqui invasion 1990
1965
Missle strikes on terrorist Plant in Sudan 1998
objective News?
Free Press?

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Whether we realize it or not, all news that we read and hear is filtered somehow by the institution reporting it. Almost all news that we hear in America is made by and for Americans, catering to the idea of the nation as the world's police. Sometimes this perspective is ingrained in our minds, and we can't see past it. When this happens, we lose sight of the truth and see things with a bias most people don't realize.

THE CLINTON SCANDAL: As the newspapers in Europe acknowledge, the main opinion in Asian countries is that the people should not care about the president's sex life. Many Asian leaders openly have many mistresses. President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines has not one, not two, not three, but six, and a wife on the side. President Habibie of Indonesia has more illegitimate children than he can count (estimated at a little over 40).

Attorney Lily Gruba, undersecretary of finance of Philippine President Joseph Estrada, told me her concern for the situation: "Most Filipinos are baffled by what the US congress is doing to a very successful president. Clinton has given the US the longest period of peacetime economic boom since the end of WWII. Yet your (the Americans') congress is putting him through a ringer of an impeachment process."

She went on to say that the context of perjury must be considered, but as far as she knows, there is currently no basis for impeachment. She declined to state what would happen if Estrada lied under oath.

Gruba also had this to say about the way American politics might affect the SE Asian economy: "The world is currently on a very precarious situation...What is happening— as it happened during the Great Depression— was a failure of capitalism to tame its wild nature. In our world today, in the so-called world of globalism, money, money, money is the name of the game.... You get Bill Clinton out of the White House with a world in crisis. You will have the Republican yahoos."

However, if Asians in the East shared the opinions of Asian-Americans, I venture to say they would be looking towards Senator Orrin Hatch for the view. After all, he was the most involved in the American presence in South East Asia, and he has warned us time and time again that Japan's economy is bound to fall. During the American military occupation of the Philippines, it was Hatch who came out and said the Americans should stop supporting the Philippine dictator, Ferdinand Marcos. This helped to pave the way for a true democracy in the Philippines to be formed. A republican, Hatch is riding on the impeach-the-cheating-hick-side, so the majority of Asian-Americans probably concur.

As an Asian-American that has seen the other side of the world, I must say that the inconsistency of American ideology and government is completely dumbfounding. This country has, in the past, shown a strict following of the constitution and the rules, not because of their convenience, but because of their legacy. In the spirit of the history of this country, we shouldn't let Clinton go simply because the economy is good. If Bush had pulled the same stunts back in '91, the demos would've had his head on a platter. But when the GOP attacks Clinton, it's harsh?

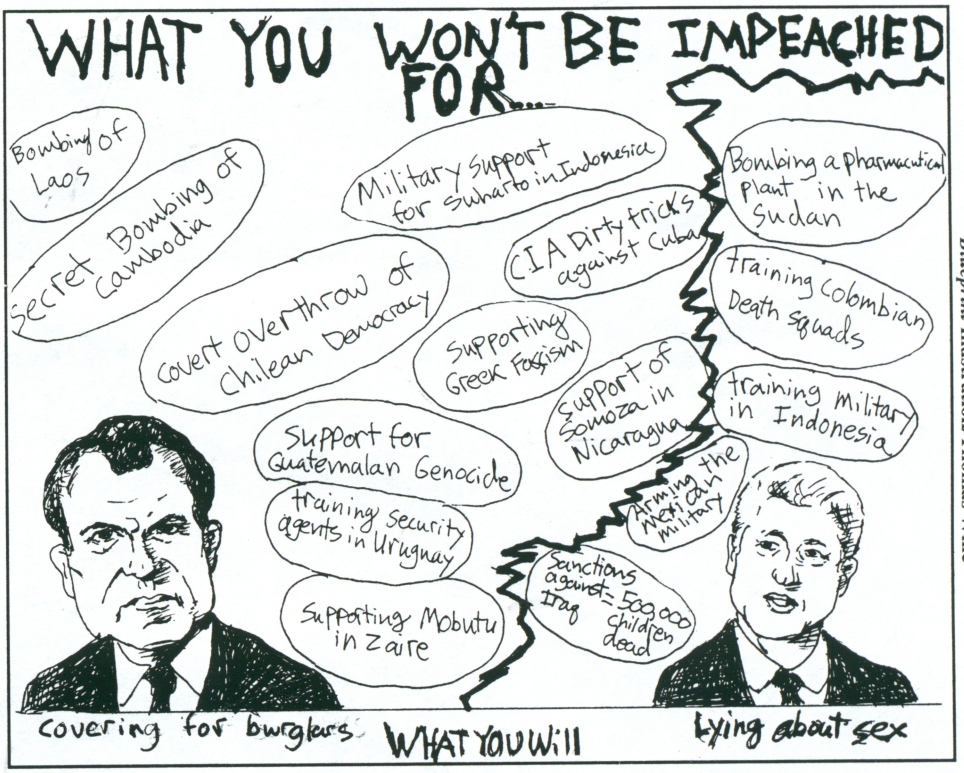
But back to the Far East. The response to the whole situation is one of disgust towards the media for releasing the graphic reports, towards the president for being dumb enough to get caught, and towards Lewinsky for very obvious reasons.

The US market influences the Philippine market by enormous measures— 70% of their local volume is accounted for by foreign funds. The Filipinos, with all of SE Asia, will be watching the Clinton proceedings very closely.

CLINTON LEGACY

Sex More Memorable Than Politics

By Nathalie de Leon
Staff Writer


WHAT YOU WON'T BE IMPEACHED FOR...
Bombing of Laos
Secret Bombing of Cambodia
Military support for Suharto in Indonesia
Bombing a pharmaceutical plant in the Sudan
CIA dirty tricks against Cuba
Covert Overthrow of Chilean Democracy
Training Colombian Death squads
Supporting Greek Fascism
Support of Somoza in Nicaragua
training Military in Indonesia
Support for Guatemalan Genocide
Arming the Mexican Military
training security agents in Uruguay
Supporting Mobutu in Zaire
Sanctions against Iraq = 500,000 children dead
covering for burglers
WHAT YOU WILL
Lying about sex

Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

How will our children's history books portray our 42nd president?

He pulled our boys out of Vietnam, and opened the economic pathway to a communist China. He tapped the Democrats--and the White House--and caused his own fall. This is how history will always view Richard Nixon--for his strong foreign policy, but mostly for his self-inflicted downfall.

He dodged the Vietnam draft, and took advantage of the pathway to China paved by the Republicans. His actions in the windowless corridor of the White House caused his own fall. It seems that history will view Bill Clinton the same way it views Nixon— not for his presidency, but rather for his scandal.

He changes his opinion with the prevailing wind— while campaigning in 1992, he told a pro-abortion convention that he was "pro-choice." The following week, he preached to a pro-child assembly about the rights of the unborn.

The people have forgiven him. From "I didn't inhale" to Paula Jones, America has sided with the president time and time again. Though his presidency has been full of scandals, a stable economy and a budget surplus have pulled Clinton's job approval ratings up to over 60%.

Good economic standing comes and goes, but the history texts will be writing about the major events- perhaps his fights against terrorism and the Iraqis, or his vested interest in the South-East Asian economy while snubbing Japan.

But history is not that kind. What Clinton will always be remembered for is the sex--in the oval office, over the phone, in the hallways.... This is the stuff that our kids may be reading about--not how good a leader he once was, but rather the double-talking adulterer that fills the news today.

Whether impeachment comes or not, Clinton's fate has already been decided--he will be portrayed as the man who pushed the envelope of law to the test, when he was supposed to be the legal and moral leader of the country.

Not only will he be remembered for what he did, but also for the subsequent changes. Secret Service agents will now have to stand an extra three feet away from all future presidents, lest they hear something they may testify to later in court. The Supreme Court has ruled that the president can be sued while in office, and can even be forced to testify. Though most people blame Starr, it was ultimately Clinton's actions that created the situation for these changes to take place.

Just as Watergate revolutionized the power of the press in probing politicians, the Lewinsky affair has radically changed the face of the presidency. Now the president must possess, in addition to integrity, charisma, intelligence, and common sense, a sharpened sense of family values. This has always been expected of our leaders, but now the issue will take center stage.

The irony of it is that the democrats were the ones who invented the concept of independent counsel, one of the main advocates of the bill being a young lawyer, Hillary Rodham.

Though some see the people's interest in the sex as a testament to the ills of our society, one has to admit that this a very attention-grabbing scandal. In my opinion, the greater scandal is being soft on Hussein while spending almost one hundred million dollars to bomb a few tents and a pharmaceutical company. However, missiles don't interest people, Monicas do.

Most of what will be remembered of Clinton thirty years from now will probably be unpublishable in school texts. Maybe the 42nd chapter of the US presidency will be censored for those under 17.

PRO/CON

Glenn Takes Rossmoor To the Moon

Should NASA have sent John Glenn Back into Space?

By Noel Fahden
Staff Writer

Sending John Glenn back into space sends America back into the age of national pride.

Astronaut John Glenn set out on a solo space mission 36 years ago aboard Friendship 7. The Russians had orbited the earth first, and America followed. After Glenn's orbit he became a national icon. Now he has another chance.

Glenn, at the age of 40, was the oldest astronaut on Mercury, and again he is significantly older than his current crew on the Discovery Seven. Although many perceive the age of 77 as a time of retirement and relaxation, Glenn is proving otherwise.

His "golden age" is why he is being sent to space. Scientists will be able to observe his symptoms regarding sleep disturbances, protein breakdown, equilibrium and the loss of bone and muscle mass. Researchers are hoping to find a direct connection between gravity and aging in hopes of overcoming ailments.

Scientists will observe Glenn's bone and muscles loss. Space travel causes a loss in bone density at a rate of 1% a month. The deterioration continues is not known to be irreversible. With more information they might soon be able to help the 25 million elderly Americans who have osteoporosis.

Although his flight is a costly proposition, it is clearly not NASA's first example of exorbitant spending. Spending millions should be expected because of the caliber of such projects.

However, Glenn's final flight will benefit us more than just in the field of science. He exemplifies the growing fact that socially and physiologically, aging has changed. People are living longer and more vibrant lives and Glenn exemplifies this trend.

We no longer grow as excited at the prospect of sending yet another shuttle into space. However, Glenn's flight is more symbolic. He reminds older generations of past ideals and introduces them to younger generations as well. Glenn is an inspiration to all not only because he was an early space pioneer, but because he has served his country as a highly respected senator.

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

John Glenn has accomplished many things in his life including becoming the first American in orbit and a United States Senator. His most recent space travel, however, is a great misuse of funds.

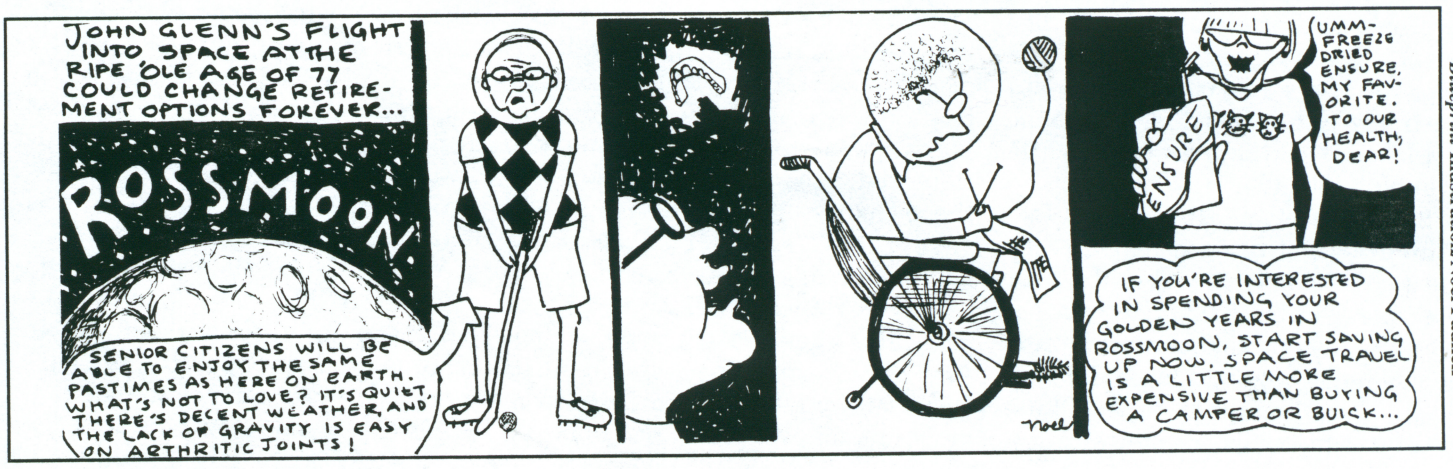
Glenn was paid around $140,000 for this mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery. That seems like an awful lot to give a man who is going to be subjected to a few minor tests that study what effects weightlessness has on a senior citizen's body.

Furthermore, why does NASA even have to study these effects anyway. They already know that weightlessness causes the muscles to undergo atrophy and the bones to weaken. Why would that be any different for a 77 year old man? Unless NASA has plans to be sending senior citizens into space in the near future, there is no need for these tests to be performed.

Glenn has also had to go through different training exercises than the other astronauts. Instead of the daily five mile run, Glenn walks five miles. NASA seems to be bending their usually stringent rules so that Glenn may be allowed to go into space.

The only major experiments conducted during this $800 million jaunt into space was the study of the sun using the Spartan satellite. It could have been deployed by an unmanned rocket and performed the same tests, and possibly more, if it had been left in orbit.

The unmanned mission would have been far less costly and just as rewarding in terms of test results. The money that would be saved by using an unmanned satellite could be put towards social security, a better investment for our nations's elderly population.


JOHN GLENN'S FLIGHT INTO SPACE AT THE RIPE OLE AGE OF 77 COULD CHANGE RETIREMENT OPTIONS FOREVER...
ROSSMOON
SENIOR CITIZENS WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SAME PASTIMES AS HERE ON EARTH. WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE? IT'S QUIET, THERE'S DECENT WEATHER, AND THE LACK OF GRAVITY IS EASY ON ARTHRITIC JOINTS!
ENSURE
UMM- FREEZE DRIED ENSURE, MY FAVORITE. TO OUR HEALTH, DEAR!
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SPENDING YOUR GOLDEN YEARS IN ROSSMOON, START SAVING UP NOW. SPACE TRAVEL IS A LITTLE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN BUYING A CAMPER OR BUICK...
Noel

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadhen

Constructive Possession Not So Constructive

By Vanessa Totten
Co-Editor-in-Chief

For those few students who remember the lessons of DARE, Youth Educators and Red Ribbon Week, a Campolindo High School policy wants you to forget what you learned. The Acalanes Union High School District would be making a huge mistake by creating a district-wide policy to suspend all students who are with someone who is intoxicated or in possession of drugs or alcohol.

If a concerned friend takes the keys from an intoxicated friend, and takes the lifesaving initiative to drive that friend home, they can be suspended from school.

The district's aim in possibly making such a policy is to reduce teenage drinking at school events. For once, they are smart enough to realize that this policy will not help, but worsen the problem.

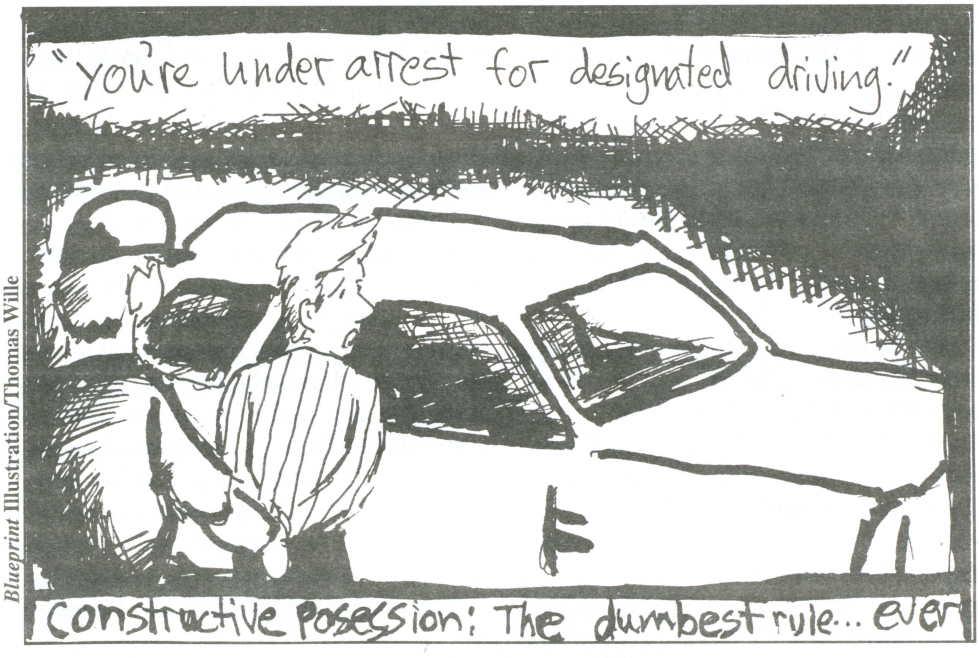
Apparently Campolindo Administrators, well beyond their teenage years, do little research before making policies if they thought that the threat of a suspension would stop teenagers from disarming a potentially deadly situation. Our own site administrators are confused as to the extent this policy effects AHS students. One site administrator said he didn't know if constructive possession existed and another said he thought the Campo policy is a state law.

Hypothetically, after being suspending for designated driving, AHS student Johnny Doe explains the situation to his parents. "Mom, I'm really sorry, but everybody else was really drunk and I was afraid if they drove they would kill me. I'm really sorry I was so selfish, I'll never be a designated driver again."

The district needs to realize that we are all in school not only to develop our craniums, but to develop our life skills. This policy not only expects students to be incredibly selfish, but it also discourages designated driving, which is something every adult who drinks should be conscientious about.

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, drinking drivers are involved in about half of the fatal traffic crashes in California. The DMV realizes that students will drink. It does not recommend that people under 21 use the designated driver program, but it does not discourage underage drinkers from using the program.

This practical sentiment should not be discouraged by our district.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

Kudos and Advice

Dear Editor,

Kudos to *Blueprint* opinion writers for bringing to the attention of Acalanes students their unique perspectives on local and global issues! I especially enjoyed Charlie Eaton's Oct. 30th column on "Global Egging" because it injected an ironic dose of reality and idealism into the sometimes apathetic student body. However, Eaton's Oct. 9th article on Education spending would have been more effective had he explained the Green party's solution rather than devote all but the last paragraph to "Wilson's" damage. After all, what we need are bold new ideas, not a rehashing of the same old problems.

Finally, I give kudos to Sam Cunningham for his comprehensive and convincing, albeit conservative, argument in favor of Proposition 8.

--Yingying Chi

Thoughts on Wrestling

Dear Editor,

What sport teaches you to think on your feet, teaches you balance, quickness and mental toughness while tremendously increasing your strength and self confidence. What sport guarantees head-to-head competition against someone your same size? What sport can award individual honors while still competing as a team? It's the same sport that draws up to 15 players from the Championship De La Salle Football Team. The sport is **WRESTLING**. Campolindo, Miramonte, and Las Lomas field all 14 weight classes. Acalanes has five experienced varsity wrestlers and covers only four weight classes. **What are you doing this winter?**

Acalanes Varsity Wrestling Coach
--Jim Changaris

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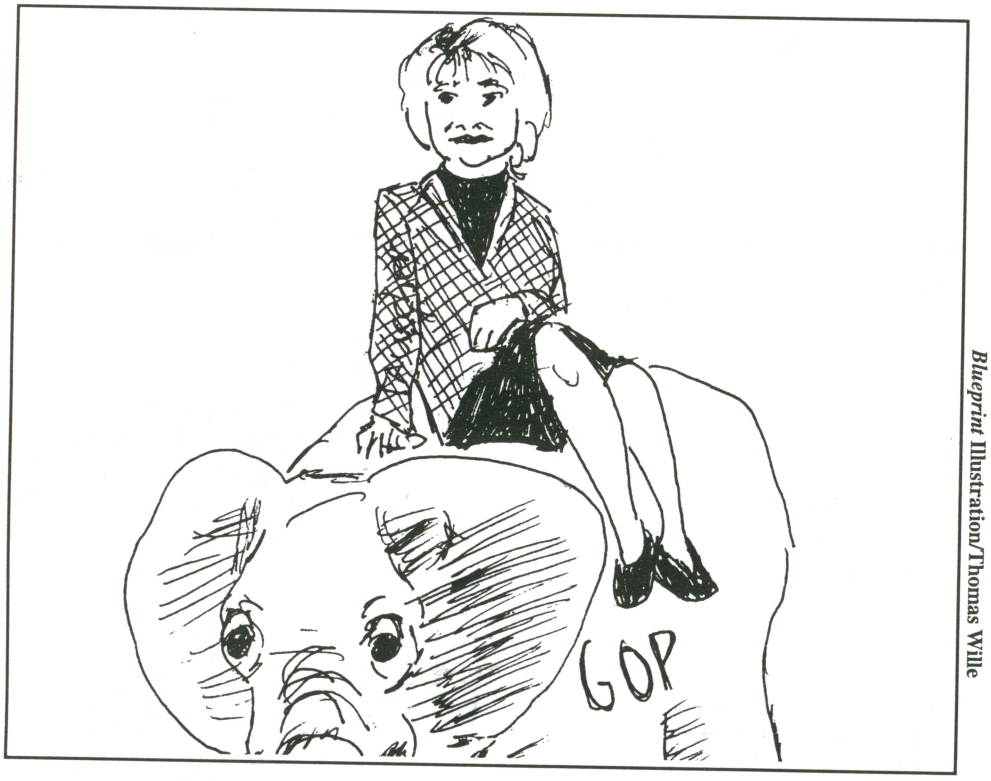
CHAT WITH CHUCK

Representative Tauscher Rides The Elephant

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

You may have wondered why you didn't hear anything about a debate between Ellen Tauscher-D and Charles Ball-R for their 1998 congressional campaigns. Allow me to let you in on a little secret. There was no debate to be had. Ellen Tauscher is clearly a Republican trapped in a Democrat's body.

Between Sept. 10 and Oct. 8 the GOP introduced 25 pieces of legislation in the House. Tauscher voted yes on 16 of those and no on only nine. In that same time, the Democrats introduced 15 bills. Tauscher graced her own party with only nine Yes votes and a whopping six No votes. What's your party again, Ms. Tauscher?

Most of Tauscher's campaign money comes from organized labor, yet she uses the constituency as a congressional crapper.

In effect, Tauscher has pulled off the most impressive campaign fund-raising scam in U.S. history. She convinced the Democratic party to finance her Republican campaign for congress in 1996 and now again in 1998.

Why the Republicans even bother running a candidate is a mystery. They ought to just let Tauscher take the district and save themselves some money. After all, isn't that what being a Republican is all about, saving yourself some money?.

So what can the few true Democrats in our congressional district do? Well, they could all vote for the Natural Law party and meditate the nation's problems away. Or they could get serious and, in large scale, start letting Tauscher know through letters and phone calls that the Democratic constituency wants to be more accurately represented.

Unfortunately, Tauscher offers only an example of a national epidemic that has infected the Democratic party. With Bill "who left my fly undone?" Clinton leading the way, the Democratic party is rapidly abandoning its status as center left party and joining the Republicans on that ugly side of politics we call the right.

Democrats, in a desperate effort to pull greater corporate campaign donations and to woo more conservative voters, have made themselves almost indistinguishable from the Republicans.

Skeptical? Well, then consider that the Democratic party's top three financial contributors in the transportation industry are also among the Republican party's top 10 financial contributors in that industry. In fact, Federal Express Corporation gave the Democrats their largest contribution of $577,625 and gave the Republicans their third largest campaign donation of $381,300, according to Common Cause. How can the two parties represent different ideologies and different constituencies if the same corporations finance them?

The situation is reminiscent of the days when California state senators would receive letters on the day they went into office from Leland Stanford's Southern Pacific Railroad. Stanford would cordially invite them to become paid "legal advisors" to the ruthless robber-baron. Stanford and other big-business players created a backlash against the Democratic and Republican parties so powerful that Upton Sinclair almost won the California governorship as a Socialist and Socialist Eugene V. Debs received 6 % of the vote when he ran for president while in jail in the 1920 presidential election.

Today, the Democrats are experiencing a similar backlash with more liberal voters turning to the Green party. Notably, in New Mexico, the Greens have won between 10% and 17% of the vote in their last three state-wide elections. Consequently, a line of Republicans (whom Tauscher has repeatedly voted with) have stolen the congressional and gubernatorial offices in a very Democratic state.

The last time the Democratic Party lost such a substantial voter base was when the Populist party's Williams Jennings Bryan ran repeatedly for president in the late 1800's. Ultimately, the Democrats absorbed many of the Populist's policies and even ran Bryan as their candidate for president. Perhaps it's time that the Democrats absorb some new policies from the Greens and other emerging third parties on the left. The party should be hunting elephants, not riding them like Reaganites.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE . . . . . .

Ten Little Indians Receives Praise Pg. 20

MOVIE REVIEWS

The Big One Slams Corporate America

By Thomas Wille
Staff writer/Cartoonist

The Waterboy

PG-13 Buena Vista Pictures

Courtesy Photo

Michael Moore (shown in photo), the director and star of The Big One, takes movie stores by storm with his humorous outlook on corporate America.

Adam Sandler's newest movie *The Waterboy* is possibly his worst movie to date. Don't trust the previews, the movie is boring.

Sandler plays Bobby Boucher, a cajun waterboy with a hidden chip on his shoulder. He lives with his extremely overprotective mother on the bayou, and after discovering a hidden gift for tackling, he becomes a star football player.

Most of the movie's laughs come from scenes of an enraged Bobby attacking members of the opposing team. The only really inspiring moment is Lawrence Taylor telling peewee football players not to smoke crack, and after that the film has no substance.

The movie pathetically overuses the sports-comedy plot. The script writing is poor because it relies entirely on physical humor. I wanted this movie to be as funny as Happy Gilmore or Billy Madison, but *The Waterboy* just doesn't deliver.

The Big One

PG-13, Miramax

Ever long to see a fat guy make a documentary about himself walking around the country trying to take cheap shots at corporate executives? No? Well don't worry about it, even though that is what *The Big One* is about. Michael Moore, the director scriptwriter and star, is funny enough to allow anyone to enjoy this movie.

In his newest film Moore redoes the filmmaking process that made him famous with *Roger and Me*. This time however, Moore has a little star power. The movie follows Moore as he travels through country promoting his book *Downsize This*. Michael Moore is an incredibly funny guy, and while he is on his book tour, he is also handing out corporate downsizer awards. He makes up these awards to try and expose the way the corporate America rips off working America. Moore also splices in some standup. A perfect moment has him asking his audience, "Why doesn't GM just sell crack?" and a listener replying, "Because the CIA's cornered the market!"

Moore's basic thesis is that if corporations are making record profits they are obligated to serve the interests of those who work for them. Since this is obviously not happening in America, Moore has a serious axe to grind. At the climax of the film Moore actually gets to speak with one of these mythical corporate executives, Phil Knight of Nike, so you truly do get to see the corporate viewpoint. P.S. it's not pretty.

FALL PERFORMANCES

Ten Little Indians Gets Big Applause

By Jake Nicholson
Staff Writer

Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians," a play of murder mystery mayhem, had the audience jumping off their seats, biting their fingernails, and laughing nervously all at the same time on opening night, Wednesday, Nov. 11.

With guns shooting, people being stabbed, and drinks being poisoned, every audience member was dying for more... and so were the characters.

As one might guess from the title, the drama is based on the nursery rhyme in which ten little Indians die in ten different ways. Accordingly, characters drop like flies on Indian Island, off the coast of Devon, England, where they were supposedly invited to a party by a U.N. Owen (unknown).

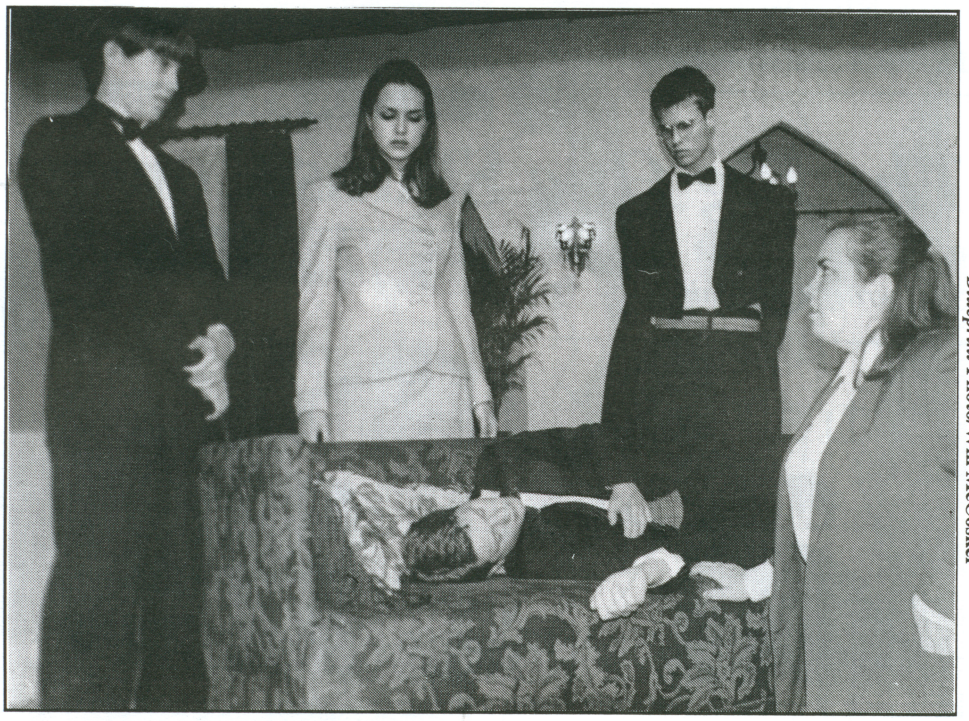
Suspects were eliminated as casualties increased, but a guess is merely a guess until the end when Sir Lawrence Wargrave, played by Chris Schneider, reveals his insane plan to the dead bodies of his victims.

Schneider said, in comparison to his past parts, "This part was a little more of a stretch; I try not to be as much of a psycho in real life." And a psycho he was. His dark side emphasized by a hellish red glow behind him in the final scene, he revels his plot for the unsolvable murder.

Sean Schneider, who played General Mackenzie, said, "I think we pulled through... and from the reaction of the audience, I think they liked it too."

Student director Graham Taylor, who has been in three past productions, thought, "It went pretty good." In contrast to actually performing on stage, Taylor said that directing was "even more nerve wracking offstage because I can't control what goes on onstage. If something goes wrong, there's very little I can do to help it."

Elizabeth Gough, an AHS teacher, said, "I've read about 70 of [Agatha Christie's] books...and [the ending] was much different, much better than the ending I had read. I really liked it." And like the rest of the audience, "When the gun shot went off, I jumped!"



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Actors Josh Garrett, Wesley Robert, Aaron Wilton, John Ricksen and Betsy Schrey starred in the fall production of Ten Little Indians.

Fall Concert Leaves Audience Spellbound

By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

The air pulsed, lulling the audience of the Fall Concert of the Acalanes orchestra, A'Capella choir and symphonic band into a stupor of amazement.

The music department held its first major production of the year on Nov. 5 in the small gym. Decorated with fall leaves, the room was packed full of spectators, some of who had to stand.

The orchestra kicked the evening off with a beautiful arrangement of tuning. Their music swayed the audience with alternating themes of quiet repose and intense drama. During their pieces, the orchestra was rudely interrupted by an explosion of firecrackers and loud voices outside the small gym . Unphased, the performers paused momentarily and continued as if never interrupted.

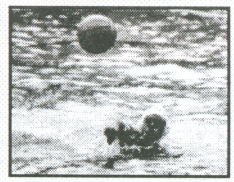
The A' Capella choir entranced the audience next with "Gloria," a multi-part piece sung with a small orchestra. The voices were well controlled and gorgeously melded together. The entire presentation was ideally suited to the musical genre.

The symphonic band performed last. All of the pieces were very bright while very commanding and powerful. All the songs were played without any large glitches.

The entire concert was played with evocative dynamics. The show was an amazing accomplishment for the band, orchestra, and choir because all that was performed had been pulled together in the short time and because the department rarely gets to perform in public.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT
SPORTS

INSIDE . . . . . .



Girls Waterpolo Defeated In NCS Semi-finals Pg. 24

BOYS SOCCER

Boys Soccer Wins NCS Championship

By Myles Rush and James Sherwood
Staff Writers

The Martinelli's Apple Cider flowed like wine when the Acalanes varsity soccer team and their fans celebrated their first North Coast Section championship since 1992, beating Miramonte 2-0 in Orinda on Nov. 14.

The national anthem was blaring, the hot chocolate was steaming, and the fans were ready to go as the NCS championship game began. The Dons controlled the first half, but the score remained 0-0.

AHS erupted in the second half with a goal from senior Ryan Cassidy on an assist from sophomore Rusty Phillips in the 44th minute. The second goal came from Dave Miskie in the 75th minute with a great shot that rocketed past Miramonte goalie Chris Hilgers, securing an Acalanes victory.

"Acalanes was a very deserving winner today," said Miramonte coach John Cappiello, who is retiring after this season. "They passed beautifully, ran with great speed, and they hit their men when they needed to. They just executed a notch or two better than we did, and that's the reason they won the game."

Miramonte came into the game as the top seed in the tournament with a record of 19-3. The Matadors won the TCAL league championships, but came up short in the TCAL tournament against Acalanes. The long time rivalry between Acalanes and Miramonte escalated this year with three close games. In their last match of the TCAL league championships, Acalanes edged a win in a shoot-out with a score of 3-1. It was a close match between two great defensive teams keeping both sides scoreless.

In the NCS Championship game the Dons had to play without senior defenseman C.J. Duffaut because he picked up two yellow cards against Piner High School in the North Coast semi-finals. Acalanes appealed the card, but North Coast rejected it, leaving Duffaut sidelined for the NCS game.

Three days earlier, Acalanes had an essential victory, defeating Piner High School 3-2 at home. Acalanes scored easily in the first half with goals from seniors David Miskie and Sean Parks, who scored off a penalty kick. "Acalanes played a very physical game, it shows by the yellow cards and the red cards that they had," said the Piner head coach.

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Senior Dave Miskie competes for the ball with Miramonte's Nick Tarrab at the Oct. 30 game against the Matadors.

The second half brought lots of action with a third goal from Acalanes by Parks on a free kick. Mark Philpot made eight great saves in the game helping the Dons to a momentous victory. In the second half number five on Piner received a card for taunting Acalanes coach Ed Blengino. When Piner's coach was asked if he was disappointed at his players' disrespectful actions he said, " I didn't see that he did that, but the Acalanes coach should be ashamed of himself for calling our players names too...they are telling me he did that, and I believe them."

Piner head coach also commented on the NCS by saying, "This game should have been played on a soccer field so that the kids had equal chances, and not the garbage that happened here."

Due to their third seed standing, the Dons received a bye for the first game of the NCS Tournament. Their quarterfinal match against McKinnleyville was a preview to the Dons' victory. Strong performances in the first half from seniors Matt Teichman, Morgan Miles, and Parks helped the Dons to an early lead. Parks, the TCAL Player of the Year, had two assists and a perfectly placed free kick to make the score 2-0. The strong Dons defense resulted in McKinnleyville being outshot 24-4.

PHOTO ESSAY

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

TCAL Player of the Year senior Sean Parks out races a Miramonte halfback to the ball. Acalanes came out hard. But the Dons didn't strike until the second half when Parks fed an assist to senior midfielder David Miiskie who drove one into the back of the net.

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

With blazing eyes, senior striker John Parker rushes to intercept a hard kicked ball from Miramonte senior half-back Cameron Barr. Barr shanked his shot wide of the goal. Miramonte fought back hard in the second half but could close the gap.

PHOTO ESSAY

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Freshman Nick Allen, sophomore Ryan Mathy, and junior Matt Johnson gawk in nail-biting anticipation as the Dons Pressure the Mats downfield in the final moments of the championship game. The Dons got a scare late in the second half when Miramonte senior Raiden Suboi received a penalty kick. Fortunately Suboi shot wide.

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Sophomore half-back Rusty Phillips breaks open a bottle of Martinelli's Sparkling Apple Cider in a gleeful celebration after the game.

SOCCER SAYINGS

They ran with great speed and hit their men when they needed to and they just executed a notch or two better than we did.

--Miramonte Coach John Cappiello

It was a very emotional game for everyone on the field because for more than half the team it was going to be our last game.

--TCAL Player of the Year Senior Sean Parks

Every senior, every junior, every freshman gave 110% on the field... I couldn't have asked for a greater season.

--Senior Defenseman David Miskie

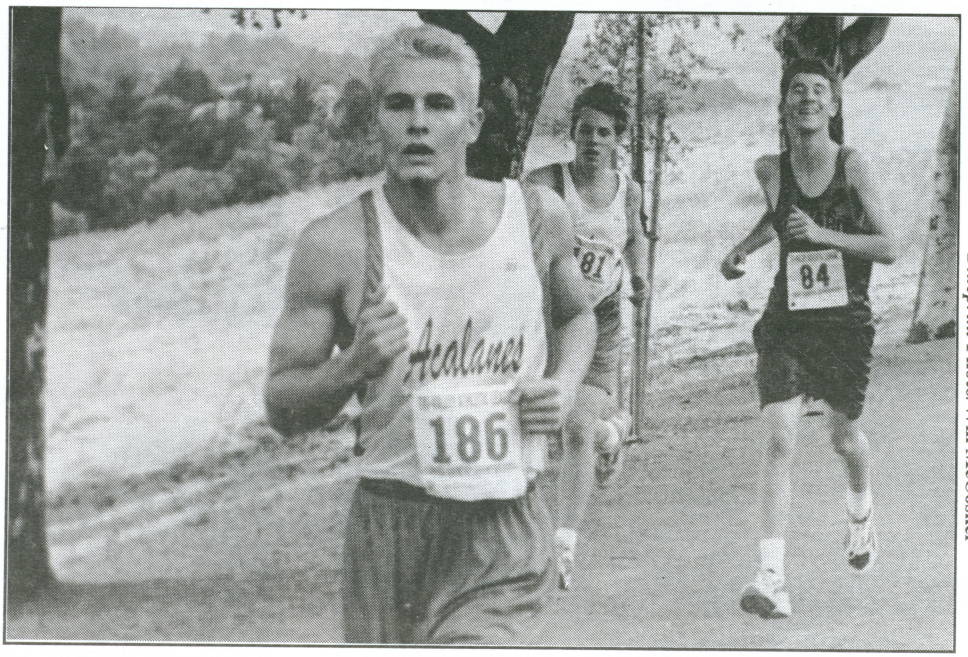
Acalanes hasn't been to the North Coast finals since 1992, we were looking forward to bringing another title home.

--Acalanes Coach Ed Blengino

JV SPORTS

Junior Varsity Fall Sports Wrap-Up

By Damon Diederich
Staff Writer



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Junior Mike Kasper glides over the crest of the top of Newhall Park's only major hill. Teammate Jan Pochop passes a Matador harrier in the background.

Football

With a 2-8 record, the Acalanes Dons Junior Varsity football team has had a tough season this year. There are many exceptional teams this year, but coach Kevin Henessy feels that it is important to focus not on how your opponents are doing, but on whether or not the team gave their best. Camaraderie runs high among team members and most don't seem to be troubled by their record; they know they gave their best.

Boys Waterpolo

Men's JV waterpolo has had a good season, winning most of their games in the regular season. The team worked very hard and had success to show for it. Their great effort carried them for the whole season. Two exceptionally accomplished teams that our team had to play were Jesuit and Bellerman High School, but they didn't put a damper on the great season. Everyone on the team put out their best and helped the team along. On the sidelines, many friendships developed, cementing the feel of team camaraderie.

Boys Soccer

Rounding out their season with an undefeated 13 win, 2 tie record, the men's JV soccer team was on a roll this year. The team this year was very strong, with 7 players from last year's JV team returning. This ensured a strong team. The offense, helped especially by Ryan Hafey and Jeff Curtis, was very strong. The most effective part of the team, however, was the defense that kept competitors at bay, keeping the scores of opposing teams low. Crucial defensive players included Doug Mattern, Dan Brast, Chris Watson and Shareef Sarakbi. The two elements combined to form a potent, game-winning team.

Girls Tennis

Ending the season with a 2-2 record, spirits are high on the women's JV tennis team. "We had some very strong singles players and the doubles teams did extremely well too." The entire team worked hard to end up with such a satisfying record at the end of the season. Especially skillful in singles were Anna Izmaylova and Nathalie Krastnev, while doubles were ruled by Maggie Corr and Ashley Landstra. Overall, the whole team did well and had a very rewarding season.

Girls Volleyball

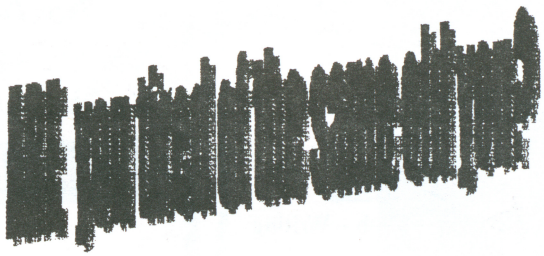
Winning 11 games and losing only 4, the women's JV volleyball team has had a thoroughly enjoyable season. Despite early problems with the positions of team members on the court, all the bugs were worked out of the system and the team enjoyed a rewarding season. Miramonte and Campolindo were tough teams our team had to face, but they weren't enough to rain in the JV volleyball parade. The team played well when they put their minds to it and every game someone new played extra hard. The season has definitely been fruitful for this team, who are looking forward to other good seasons.

Girls Waterpolo

Finishing third in the final tournament of the season, women's JV waterpolo lost to MIramonte, 6-4, and to Alhambra, 10-3. Coach Chris Lane said that the success was due to the hard work the team exhibited and their vast improvement over the season. Molly Mehaffey and Lindsey Jenkins-Stark worked especially hard to improve their skills.

Cross Country

JV cross country had great success this year. The boys are expected to finish in the top three in league and the girls are expected to retain their title as league champions). Cross country's unique sporting environment lent itself to more benevolent sporting. "There is the sense of family," said coach Manny Myers "There's been less divisiveness this year."



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VOLLEYBALL

Swept Under the Mat

By Jake Nicholson
Staff Writer

Establishing a new Acalanes record of 31 wins in a season, and Coach Jim Changaris reaching his 600 wins mark, the '98 Dons have had a remarkable season and finished third behind Campo and Miramonte.

"I don't have a clue as to what happened tonight," said Changaris after a teeth-clenching match between the Dons and the Las Lomas Knights on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Since the start of the warm up drills (including cheers and dances), the tension was in the air. After losing two hard fought games 14-16 and 13-15, the Dons came back incredibly with a "pump it up" spirit to crush the Knights in the third game 15-3.

The competition grew as the Dons edged out a victory, 17-15, over the Knights to take them into the fifth game. After a number of aggressive spikes, girls crashing on the floor, and a couple of aces, Acalanes came out on top with a 15-11 victory.

According to Las Lomas Coach Troy Songer, the Knights' passing faltered and "you can't do that with Acalanes; they're going to crush the ball."

And that's exactly what they did in their playoff game against Concord on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Though "Concord definitely put up a fight," according to senior Audrey Lin, the Dons knocked them out with 15-5, 15-10, and 15-8 wins.

Concord coach Andrew Romer says that his team played better than expected, but they "just don't have enough firepower" to beat Acalanes who has a considerably larger team.

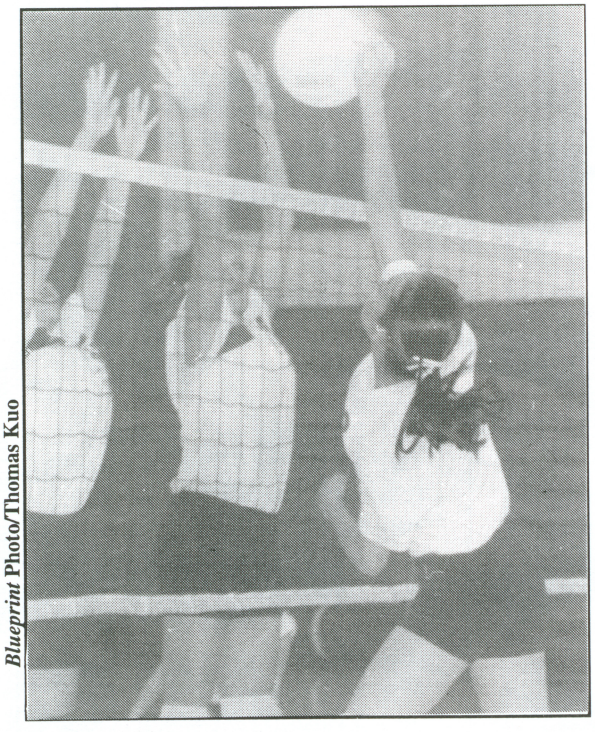
Changaris praised powerful sophomore Jill Sexton (13 kills; 3 aces) and Lin (7 kills; 2 aces) for serving passing, and hitting tremendously. He was looking for this kind of play in the upcoming final match against Campo on Thursday, Nov. 12. "If we can play like we did tonight Thurs. night, it should be a really good match."

The first two games on Thurs. were definitely good matches, but Acalanes made "a couple of key errors," said Changaris. Acalanes made a tremendous come back from a 0-9 deficit in the first game but lost the games12-15.

Senior Julie Hunt commented, "We have a problem this year of finishing games.... We needed to bring the momentum of the first game into the second and third ."

Campo coach Jim Simonson said that his team "came out with a bang and then sort of got complaisant."

As for the future of the Dons, they are looking to come in the top four or five in North Coast. "I don't want to base the season on one loss," says Changaris who was dismayed about the loss to Campo.



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Senior Audrey Lin nails a spike in a recent league game. The Dons were pushed into second place after losing to MIramonte, behind the Mats and Campo.

World Of Sports Cliches

"You know, Terry, this Forty-Niner team is really going to have to play well to win today."

This is the world of sports cliches, and Fox Sports is the expert in the field.

Everyone's heard that "the best offense is a good defense," that golden rule from basketball.

How about "wow, he really smacked that one", after McGwire hit a homerun. Or "we have to take things one quarter at a time", which is a favorite of football coaches. These phrases are so ingrained that they are often spouted out without notice.

I remember my own experiences covering high school basketball. Trying to find a sentence that wouldn't evoke a cliched answer was like trying to find a needle in a haystack. I mean, uh, it was quite difficult to find a good question.

"So, what was one specific key play that you can remember that led to the victory?"

"It was teamwork, no doubt. We gave it our best shot. Those girls really gave it their all out there. We took it one quarter at a time, and teamwork was the key."

In cross country, too, spectators often yell "good job" to everyone in the race, even if someone is on the ground crawling. Even if you didn't see their race, it is custom to tell anyone you talk to after the race "good job out there".

So next Sunday when you sit down to watch Fox Sports with Terry and Jim, count the number of times they say "whoever scores more points is going to win this game". Or, "the team that can step it up and play good defense will pull out the win. Defense is the key".

If I had a nickel everytime I heard that.

-Chris Vetek

GIRLS POLO

Girls Water Polo Crest Breaks at NCS

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

The Acalanes girls water polo team struggled for a win, but came up short with a devastating loss of 7-8 to Terra Linda at home on Nov. 12. Although the Dons came out strong, they fell short during the second half and were finally defeated.

The girls came out with extraordinary strength, leading in the first half 6-3. The game looked as if it was 'in the bag.' During the course of the first half, many of the Dons starters were playing with two kick outs, a dangerous situation considering the fact that a third would lead to a kick out of the game.

"We lost focus and got unlucky. It was a tough game, but we fell apart," said junior driver Renee Harris.

Coming into the second half of the game, the girls offense fell apart, losing the determination and brutality that they began the game with. Due to their collapse and the poor calls the reffs made, the girls lost focus and were trampled by the opponent.

Key players of the game were seniors Michelle Migliore and Heather Stretch, and junior Anne Olson. Hole set Migliore drowned out her defender with three goals.

Hole d Stretch had three goals, all from outside the four meter. Driver Olson had one goal from outside the four meter as well.

"As a team, we were the closest and most well knit I've ever played on in my four years at Acalanes," said Migliore.

The Acalanes girls water polo team played a closely matched game against Corondolet on Nov. 11 at Contra Costa College, but still managed to pull ahead with a win of 6-5. Our girls did not dominate the entire game, as Corondolet scored their first two goals in the first few minutes of the game.

During the first quarter, the Dons were behind, and junior starter Lizzy Block hurt her knee early on in the game and had to be taken out. The game was so closely knit, starters Elaine Nourse, Michelle Migliore, Heather Stretch, Sonia Lamel, and Anne Olson played the entire game.

"We started out kind of flat, and it took us awhile to get started, but we improved," said senior driver Dana Bochte.

Senior hole set Michelle Migliore had three spectacular goals during the game. Her first was a vicious backhanded shot that she took from hole set, followed by a corner pocket shot from a six on five.

Stretch put one in from outside the four meter, and junior driver Lamel added two more for the win.

"We didn't play up to our full potential. Our defense was on, but our offense was struggling," said junior driver Nourse.

Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Senior Heather Stretch passes to a teammate, resulting in a successful goal, at a recent game in which the Lady Dons proclaimed victory over Campolindo.

FOOTBALL

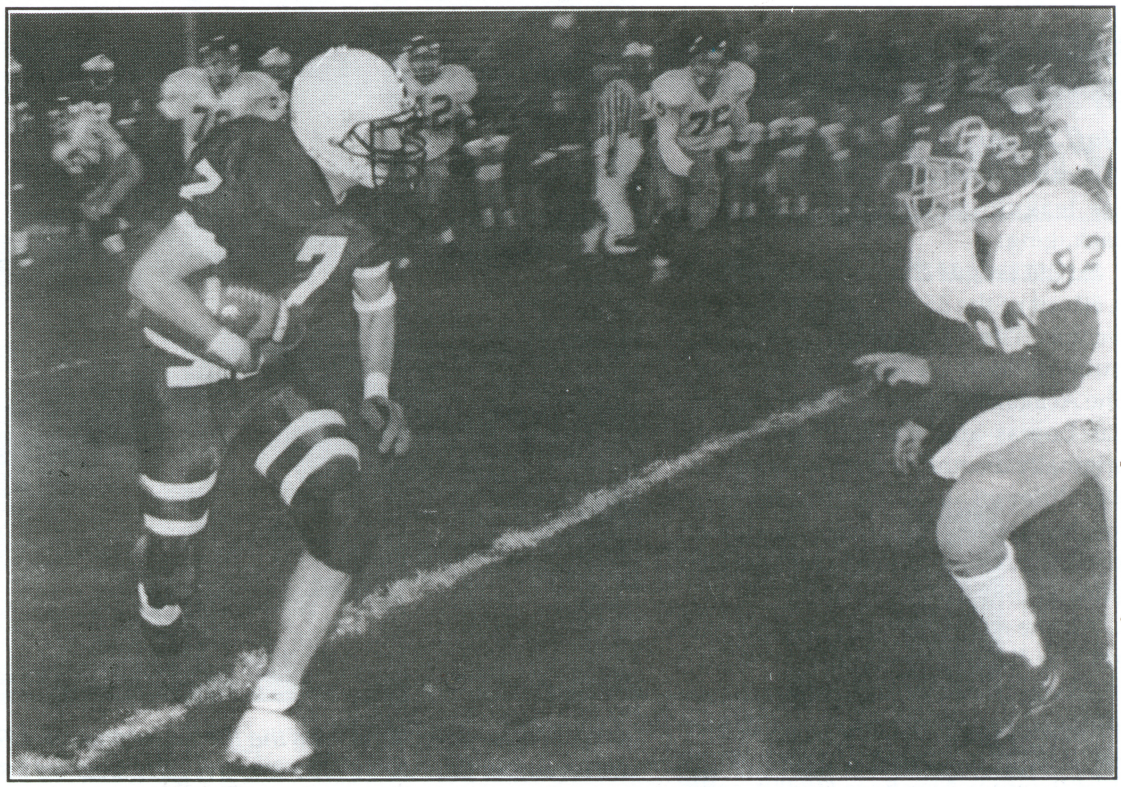
Dons Stomp Campolindo and Alhambra

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

Acalanes (6-4) beat Campolindo (4-6) 22-14 in a come from behind win, finishing the season with a winning record for the second straight year. This was last done in 1974-75.

The Dons' first score was set up by a 65 yard pass to senior wide receiver Andy Ruiz, leading to a touchdown run by junior Corey Hardin to make the score 6-0 early on in the game. Ruiz felt quarterback "Dave (Iverson) made a lot of good plays, he stepped up, stayed in the pocket, just let it fly."

Campolindo got its first score after recovering an Acalanes fumble and driving for a touchdown and the lead at 7-6. Campolindo scored next, this time on a drive after an interception from Dave Iversen. The score at the half was 14-6, Campolindo.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Senior Jordan Engledinger runs against the ferocious Bulldog defense during their November 6th game. The Dons eeked out a nail-biting 21-20 overtime victory.

Acalanes recovered a fumble near their own goal line. On a fourth and five play, Iversen ran a quarterback option for the first down. On the Dons next play, Hardin found an opening and broke through for a touchdown. The Dons' two-point conversion attempt was good, tying the game at 14.

Coach Smith felt that fatigue was a factor working against the Cougars in the second half. "They really only have 16 to 18 kids, and they play tough...when you have a lot of guys going both ways, you're going to got worn down."

Campolindo's three next possessions resulted in an interception by junior Brett Gingery, a fumble recovered by senior Cody Norris and returned 52 yards for a touchdown, and an interception by junior Tyler Douglas sealing the Dons' win. The two-point conversion on the touchdown was good to Luther Smith for the final score 22-14.

Iversen felt one of the key factors was that the "offensive line did a great job. We had some injuries, but everybody just fought hard."

The Dons' 21-20 win over Alhambra in the last home game of the season on Nov. 6 was a close battle, which the Dons pulled out with in OT.

The Dons' first score came in the second quarter on an Andy Martin run, after being set up by a half-field by Hardin, making the score 6-0.

Alhambra came right back with three big plays, placing them at the Dons' goal line. They proceeded to take a 7-6 lead with a touchdown.

Acalanes' next possession started out with a strong kickoff return by Rob Meinbress. The drive was capitalized with a 23- yard touchdown run by Jordan Engledinger and the two point conversion by Hardin to make the score 14-7 at the half.

Alhambra tied the game in the fourth quarter at 14-14 and threatened to take the lead. On their next drive, Nate Burns made a tackle, which prevented a possible touchdown, and Dan Gray blocked a possible touchdown pass with the clock winding down.

In overtime, the Dons got the ball first and scored to make it 21-14. Alhambra had a chance to win after scoring a touchdown, but the Dons defense held their line, giving the Dons the 21-20 win.

"Alhambra doesn't give up ... they're tough," said Coach Pat Smith. "We knew we were going to have to stick it out, and we did."

The name of the game in the Dons 19-0 win over Freedom on Halloween was big plays.

The three touchdowns came on a 46-yard run by Hardin, a 65-yard pass to Luther Smith, and a 70-yard pass to Ruiz. A big interception by Meinbress in the endzone helped keep Freedom scoreless.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country Goes the Distance

By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

Acalanes Cross Country wrapped up the league games with spectacular packaging.

At the League championship on Nov. 6, 60 out of the 85 who ran set personal records. The Varsity boys came in 4th running right on Miramonte's heels. The Acalanes boys were also beaten by Las Lomas and Dublin. Dublin was originally disqualified for wearing several different uniforms, but the other coaches decided not punish the runners for their coaches' mistake and they were allowed into the races.

All the Acalanes boys ran in a pack but the first to finish the 5k with a 16:45 was senior Chris Vetek, who was followed by freshman Royce Anderson (17:36), junior Darryl Wong (17:42), junior Alex Baca (18:09), sophomore Steve Vetek (18:16), and junior Joe McKinley (19:20). Coach Manny Myers described the boys race as "the most competitive boys varsity race in recent memory."

The girls varsity team snagged third place behind Campolindo and Miramonte. Junior Nikala Prowznik (20:15) led the team, followed by juniors Mary Thomas (20:23) and Megan Johnstone (20:54), senior Petra Kohler (21:15), junior Erin Riordan (21:27), and seniors Sabrina Lee (21:43) and Amy Judy (22:09).

The very last meet will be the Meet of Champions at Newhall Park on Nov. 21. All the varsity teams attend, and the top ten runners will continue on to the State meet, which is one step up from the North Coast league. The top ten in that meet will go to the regional meet and then perhaps to nationals. Myers believes that Vetek will be Acalanes' contribution to the ten best. It is estimated that he will have to make a 16:30 to accomplish this.

Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Junior Megan Johnstone runs the third mile stretch at the League Championships on November 6th. Johnstone and the girls finished third in League.

TENNIS

Lady Dons Finish 3rd

As the tennis season comes to an end, the Lady Dons have played two decisive games, beating Benicia and losing to Las Lomas. These final matches gave the Dons a respectable third place standing, but it also insured that their arch nemesis, Campolindo, would be in the limelight at first place along with the colossal Miramonte team. While the Lady Dons were unable to place above third in league they were able to place second in the TCAL tournament.

In the North Coast tournament the Dons spirit was embodied in their top seeded player Ashley O'Neil. Throughout the season Ashley has been the Dons ace in the hole, beating almost all of her competition. This power allowed her to bring the team all the way into the finals. At the game Ashley faced Jessica Seabel from Branson High, who played an outstanding game and was able to win 6-2, 6-1 clinching the first place title for Branson.

In the game against Benicia the Dons pulled out all the stops and pummeled their opposition to gain an 8-1 victory. The lower Varsity girls, like Amy Paetzold [6-3, 6-1] and April Ho [6-4, 6-2], were showing their potential to become top varsity players next year by playing great and winning the majority of their matches.

In the second game the Lady Dons faced the once-defeated Las Lomas bunch, who like the phoenix, rose from the ashes and burned the Lady Dons, forcing them to knuckle under in an agonizing 5-4 loss, ending the season for the Dons. -Hiro Kagiyama

BOYS POLO

Struggling Through Stormy Waters

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

The Acalanes boys water polo team buckled 10-11 under the relentless pressure of Marin Catholic at Indian Valley College Nov. 13, ending their challenge at the North Coast Section Championships. Although the Dons put up a good fight, they never took the lead by more than one or two goals, and, partly due to controversial calls from the referee, failed to win the game.

During the second quarter, senior hole d Joel Corcoran had his head cut open by a kick in the face after he scored his only goal off a drive. He received fifteen stitches for his wound.

Senior drivers Matt Lynn and Tim Malone had three and two goals, respectively. Junior hole sets Trevor Wagner and Pat Riley had three and one goals, respectively, off of drives and backhanded shots from their position.

"We improved a lot from the beginning of the season and played to our full potential..., but we came up short," said Wagner.

The boys water polo team struggled to beat Cal High 9-5 at home on Nov. 12. The Dons came out ahead, and stayed ahead, but eventually lost focus, allowing Cal High to catch up.

"The score of the game reflects on our mistakes. We should have won by more. It was a tightly called game, but we should've had them," said Riley.

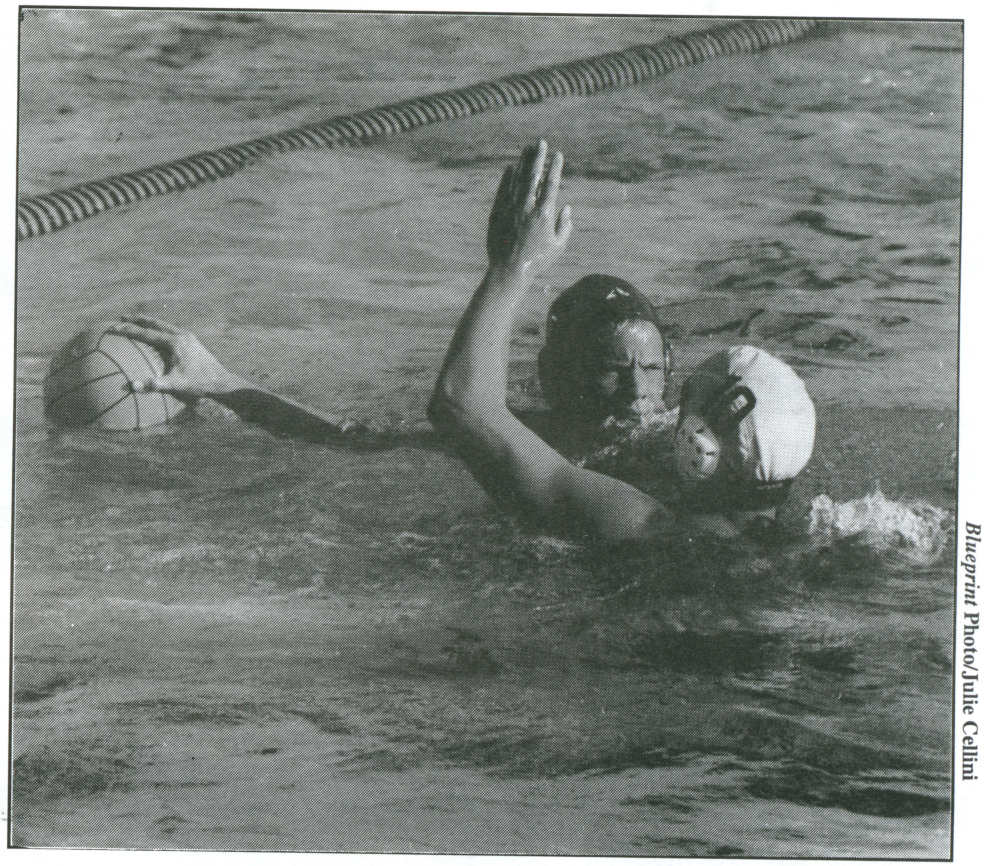
The star of the game, Riley, had three goals, two off of counter attacks and one off of a back handed shot in hole set. Riley played with a killer attitude and drowned his mark as he led the Dons to a victory.

Drivers Lynn, Malone, and Corcoran each had a goal off of counter attacks.

Junior driver Conor Deal had one goal off of a drive, while Wagner had two goals off of counter attacks.

"Our minds weren't in the game, and they threw a funky defense that we couldn't adapt to," said Wagner.

The boys water polo team succumbed under the incessant strength of Leland, losing 8-4 at home. Although the Dons put up a good fight, it was not enough to overcome the ripping force of Leland, with a scoring ratio of 2:1 during the game.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Senior Matt Lynn makes a successful shot at the goal in a recent game against Camplindo. Matt's success helped to lead the team to the North Coast Championships.

For Leland, senior driver Brett Steward starred, scoring three goals, one of which he counterattacked and went down the court unmarked, did a pop shot from the four meter and scored, putting Leland up 4-2 at the half.

Our boys did not go under without a fight. During the first half, Corcoran received the ball, turned his player, and scored back handed. Later, Lynn lobbed the ball into the goal for a spectacular shot that the goalie had no way of reaching.

In the second half, Wagner went in the back door and shot into the back of the net. Junior driver Danny Holligan scored with a nice shot into the right corner pocket of the net. The boys played hard, but their man power fell short to that of Leland.

Leland's goalie, senior Justin Bibler, said, "We had a lot of key plays from a lot of key players, and our defense was solid."

"Our performance failed to start fired up, and [Leland] came out ready to play, which led them to a win," said Riley.

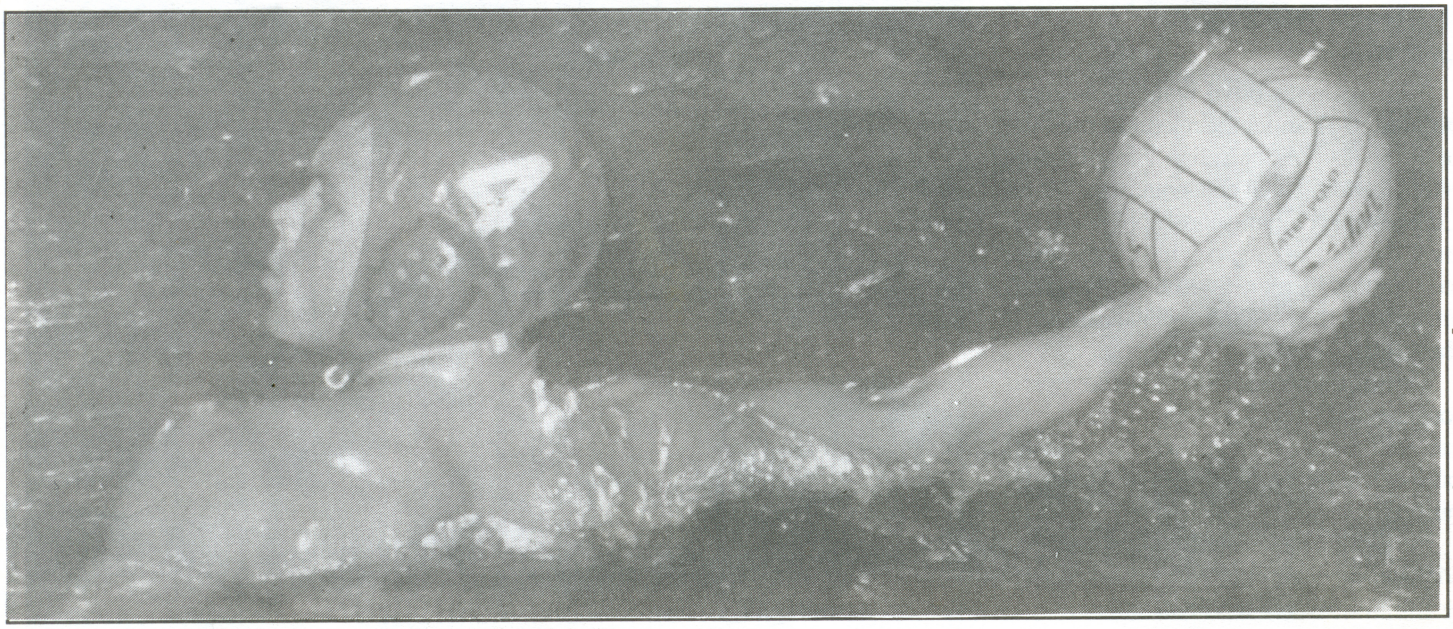
The Dons easily smashed the trying efforts of De La Salle at De La Salle with a win 12-5 on Oct, 30.

During the first few minutes of the game, Wagner had an easy goal. Riley and Wagner each scored two more goals off counter attacks that led to a hard took shot into the corner of the nets.

The star of the game, with five lob shots that helped defeat De La Salle, was Lynn. He countered hard, sprinted up and down the field, and blew the goalie right out of the water with his talent.

"Acalanes is a really good team, with really good player, and they came in strong, and ended strong. We countered poorly, shot poorly, and we stood no chance against them," said junior driver Jeff King.

Athletes of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Matt Lynn

Senior Matt Lynn is this issue's male athlete of the issue, showing his ability in the second half of the season to make big plays for the Dons' varsity waterpolo team. Lynn starred in the Dons' 12-5 victory over De La Salle on October 30, scoring five total shots. He also stepped up to contribute one first half goal in the Dons' 9-3 loss to Miramonte at home. "He goes out and plays every game like it's his last," says junior Trevor Wagner. "He's a great leader." Lynn's consistency and expertise elevated his team to higher levels this season.

Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Nikala Prowznik

Junior Nikala Prowznik, three year cross country veteran and two year varsity leader, is Blueprint's female athlete of the issue. She finished seventh in the Tri-County Athletic League championships with a 20:15 performance. Prowznik and junior Mary Thomas both earned First-Team All League honors with top-ten finishes. In her first year as a freshman, Prowznik earned the Outstanding Performer team award after running as the top frosh-soph runner, and in one year she moved up to the top as a varsity leader. She's finished at the top for Acalanes consistently this year and last.